

British 'mad cow' expert flies out to Moscow

Top vet tries to calm fears over BSE after Russians reject beef

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW
AND MICHAEL HORNSEY IN LONDON

BRITAIN yesterday sent its chief veterinary officer to Moscow to try to sort out the dispute which is holding up delivery of almost 2,000 tons of British beef, part of a £140 million package of European Community food aid. The consignment of British beef, rejected by the Moscow authorities two days ago on health grounds, was yesterday unloaded 600 miles away in the Arctic city of Murmansk. All shipments of food aid from Britain have meanwhile been suspended.

Keith Meldrum, who is not expected back before Thursday, has been charged with persuading the Russians that their fears about "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), are groundless. He is accompanied by his assistant, Kevin Taylor, and European Commission veterinary

officials. Shipment of about 1,800 metric tons of beef to St Petersburg from Hull was delayed yesterday by the dispute. The meat began arriving at the docks in refrigerated containers last Thursday and it was due to have been loaded on to the MV Bura, a Polish cargo vessel, yesterday.

In addition, a plane-load of 118 tons of beef, which should have been flown from Stansted airport to St Petersburg last Friday, was yesterday being kept in cold storage in King's Lynn, Norfolk.

The Foreign Office said: "We understand that the Russians are asking for assurances that the beef comes from herds that are free of

BSE." Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, described the hold-up as "terribly embarrassing". Britain's patience, she said, was not limitless. "If they are going to behave like this, we have lots of other things to do, not only with our beef but with our time."

Mrs Chalker, who said assurances had been received from Moscow only last week that the meat would be acceptable, blamed the difficulties on a power struggle within the Russian bureaucracy. The European Commission in Brussels urged the Russians to "get organised" and said the British beef was "totally covered by sanitary regulations". In June 1990,

Britain agreed that carcasses beef exported to the rest of the EC should be certified as coming from herds that had been free of any case of BSE for at least two years. The Russians appear to suspect that they are being fobbed off with poor quality beef.

The agriculture ministry in London said the situation was complicated because certification applied only to "bone-in" meat, whereas almost all the 140,000 tons of beef in the EC's surplus stockpiles in Britain was de-boned. All the meat destined for Russia comes from these stocks and does not need to be certified for export. The ministry says that the origin of the meat is

irrelevant because all carcasses are stripped of those organs capable of harbouring BSE. Murmansk, which has no livestock farming in its environs, has fewer restrictions on imported meat. It was not known yesterday whether a sale of British beef would be held in Murmansk or whether the meat would just be distributed to needy causes. Germany, alarmed by reports that huge quantities of German food and medicine donated to Russia have been stolen, yesterday urged the European Community to take over supervision and distribution of aid. Dieter Vogel, government spokesman, said Bonn was sending ten logistics experts to Russia immediately. Germany will call for a full EC task force to be sent to Russia when community foreign, trade and agriculture ministers meet in Brussels on Friday.

Cow deaths, page 2

TODAY IN THE TIMES

SILENCED?



Hollywood is ailing. Orion, who made *Silence of the Lambs* is just one company on the verge of bankruptcy. Now more wholesome family fare is planned to revive Tinseltown. Page 10

TOP TO TOE



Trained in sculpture, Marilyn Anselmi finishes designing a dress for her Hobbs shops then heads off to oversee her complementary shoe designs. Page 11

LP - R.I.P.?



For records, it could be the vinyl curtain. CD sales are soaring, while LPs account for only 8 per cent of the market and are becoming a specialist item. Page 7

President flees to Armenia

BY BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ZVIAD Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president who fled his bunker below the parliament building in Tbilisi at dawn yesterday, was last night reported to have arrived in Armenia.

While jubilant Georgians hailed his departure as the birth of a new democracy and the end of the brutal unrest in which up to 200 people have died, the president was said to have travelled to Tbilisi, in northeastern Armenia.

The opposition forces, a coalition of radical nationalists and former allies of the controversial leader, pledged to start work urgently on a new constitution that would prevent excessive power falling

into one man's hands. Giorgi Chanturia, the president's most outspoken critic and rival for the leadership of Georgia's independence movement, said the military council of rebel forces would hand over power to a coalition of civilian parties within days.

The civilian government would then prepare for elections within six months, taking care to avoid the malpractices and fraud which Mr Chanturia alleges marred the 1990 elections. Mr Gamsakhurdia, in power only seven months ago.

Today, January 6, the new democratic Georgia has been born, said Tengiz Khovani, the leader of the nationalist guard opposition. "Not only the Georgian people but all the democratic forces of the world will celebrate this victory."

The president left the capital with about 80 supporters and headed towards Azerbaijan in a convoy of three buses and three armoured cars hung with white flags. One of Mr Khovani's associates said, however, that he had been arrested and taken back to Tbilisi. That report was subsequently denied by Levan Sharashidze, the interim Georgian defence minister, according to Iprinda, the Georgian press agency.

Outside the blazing parliament building on the Rustaveli Prospekt in central Tbilisi, rebel gunmen embraced each other amid the rubble and acrid smoke, rifles slung over their shoulders. Men and women swarmed into the tree-lined central boulevard, which only hours before had been alive with sniper fire, and inspected the gutted ruins of some of the capital's most beautiful buildings. One young man was mobbed by comrades outside the rebel headquarters on Rustaveli Prospekt as he waved a bullet-ridden Georgian flag that he said he had seized from the parliament building.

"He's gone, the dictator has gone at last," said another fighter. "There will be no hiding-place, we will track him down, wherever he runs." Other passers-by were bitter that the democrats continued on page 18, col 4

Trouble-stirrers, page 9



Georgian jubilation: opposition supporters celebrate outside the shell-scarred parliament building in Tbilisi

Ratner may quit group

Pressure is growing on Gerald Ratner to relinquish the chairmanship of Ratner Group, the troubled jewellery retailer.

An announcement is expected on Friday and there is speculation that Mr Ratner may also resign as chief executive. Shares in Ratner closed at an all-time low of 21 1/2 p. Page 19

Court told of attack by mob

A mob of 200 used a dispute between two rival shopkeepers to assault police, throw bottles and bricks and chant racist abuse in a night of rioting last summer, Cardiff crown court was told. Page 3

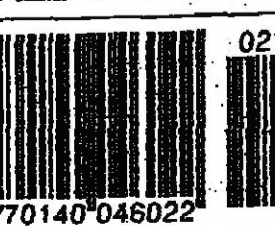
UN moves in

Fifty UN military observers are to take up position in Croatian battle zones. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, said last night. But no peacekeeping force should be sent until all combatants accept a continued ceasefire and demilitarised zones, and all federal forces withdraw from Croatia, he told the security council. Page 9

Manager out

Terry Butcher, the former England captain, became the first football manager to lose his job in 1992 when he was sacked yesterday as the player-manager of Coventry. Page 34

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Doctors halt breast implants

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON



Sir Allan Green, QC, who resigned as director of public prosecutions after a warning for alleged kebab-crawling, expects to act for the defence when he returns to the Bar.

THE United States government has called for an end to the use of silicon breast implants until they can be shown to be safe.

Announcing a moratorium on the distribution of the implants, the most popular form of breast enlargement for both medical and cosmetic purposes, the US Food and Drug Administration reported that new information had led to "increasing concern about safety".

Dr David Kessler, the FDA commissioner, said that surgeons should stop using the

implants until this new information could be thoroughly evaluated.

As well as reported problems with leakage from the implants, the FDA has been investigating charges that the treatment damages the body's immune system.

Dr Kessler will convene the FDA's advisory panel on plastic surgery devices within 45 days to decide whether to allow the implants back on the market.

David Sharpe, consultant plastic surgeon at St Luke's Hospital Bradford, said that

he was astonished at the FDA decision. "There is no scientific evidence to justify it," he said (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Paul Levick, chairman of the medical advisory committee at the National Hospital for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and a consultant plastic surgeon at Birmingham Accident Hospital, said that he would now stop using silicone breast implants while the FDA panel examined the evidence, even though he did not think the moratorium was justified.

For sale: taxi that talked to the nation

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BLACK London taxi, 1977, 24,000 miles only, immaculate except for hole in roof. Interesting history: has had just about every Cabinet minister in the back at one time or another. Squire. For sale.

The BBC is replacing its venerable radio car, whose main function in life has been to draw up at the doors of eminent politicians at dawn to enable them to talk live on the Today programme. They sat in the back, while the driver, a BBC studio manager — hoisted the 20ft aerial through the roof, twiddled the knobs on a bank of sound equipment in what would normally be the luggage compartment, and hooked up the guest with Redhead, Humphrys, MacGregor and the rest back in the studio.

From next week, however, MPs in-

cluded to share their waking thoughts with the nation will open their front doors to the taxi's replacement: a pair of gold-coloured Volkswagen minibuses carrying more advanced sound and tape editing equipment and, more importantly, their own generators. There has been the occasional embarrassment in the past when the BBC taxi on location has had to beg a set of leads and a jump start from JTN to get its battery-powered transmitter up and running and on the air.

The new vehicles are bigger, with three seats in a row, making it easier for a reporter to squeeze in with the victim and question him face to face live on the air. Like their predecessor, the Volkswagens have tinted windows: being dragged from the breakfast table to be grilled by Redhead is bad enough without curious passers-by peering in at you. Phil Harding,

editor of the Today programme, said that the taxi had performed sterling service, but it had its problems, not least being constantly flagged down on its way to assignments.

Parking outside the relevant house could also prove a headache. "The taxi had a great problem one morning outside Nigel Lawson's house. But he came out and proved remarkably adept at stopping and directing the traffic to get the taxi into the kerb."

As live interviews can take place well before eight in the morning, MPs are rarely fully groomed and bedeviled when they climb into the back seat of the car. "We had one former Cabinet minister who emerged from his front door wearing pink silk pyjamas, with a dressing gown thrown over his shoulders for modesty," Mr Harding said. "I am absolutely not going to tell you who it

was, except that it was not Margaret Thatcher."

The gold minibuses, carrying only the most discreet BBC logo to avoid attracting undue attention, are a far cry from the earliest mobile studios, in which a wax recording was made on the back seat of the car, then rushed back to the studio for broadcasting. It is to be assumed that in those days, when announcers wore dinner jackets, no Cabinet minister would dream of broadcasting in his pyjamas.

Particularly eminent interviewees were honoured with "The Grey Carpet" treatment. The rubber mat in the back of the cab was neatly rolled up to reveal a pristine Wilton. Only cabinet ministers and peers were thought worthy of such an honour.

Reporters dispatched in the radio car to cover urban riots and strike

Continued page 18, col 2

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مكتبة من الكتب

Mad cow disease still kills 500 dairy cattle a week

RUSSIAN veterinary objections to British beef aid are a reminder that although "mad cow disease" has dropped from the headlines, it is still killing about 500 dairy cattle a week.

The fatal condition, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was officially diagnosed in late 1986. By December 20 of last year, the agriculture ministry had recorded 44,010 confirmed cases on 15,407 farms, almost all among dairy cattle, of which there are 2.7 million in Britain.

Typically, only two or three animals in any one herd are affected. Southwest England, the heart of the dairy industry, with 19,879 cases, has suffered most. The Mid-

lands, with 7,451 cases, and the South-East, with 5,685 cases, have been the next worst hit.

Although the number of cattle falling victim to BSE has grown steadily, Keith Meldrum, the government's chief veterinary officer, is on record as saying that this year "we will see the start of a rapid decline in the number of confirmed BSE cases".

The basis for this prediction is the assumption that the agent causing BSE was transferred to cattle via feed containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, the ovine version of the disease. Such feed, of which the dairy industry was a big consumer, has been banned since July 1988.

If a prediction by the government's chief vet is right, BSE will reach a peak this year and then start to decline, Michael Hornsby reports

On average, cattle incubate BSE for four years before showing visible symptoms. So if contaminated feed was the sole or main source of BSE, and no cattle have eaten any since July 1988, new cases of the disease should reach a peak this year and then start to decline.

That prediction could be upset if infected cows can transmit BSE to their offspring. So far there has been only one confirmed case of BSE in an animal born after the feed ban, but this might have been caused by a farmer continuing to

use banned feed after the cut-off date. Six other similar cases are being investigated. Government scientists say that they are confident that if maternal transmission does occur, it will not happen often enough to prevent a rapid decline in new cases of BSE.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dementia (CJD), spongiform encephalopathy in humans, occurs worldwide, affecting about one person in every two million each year. Eating scrapie-infected sheep, which people in Britain have been doing for at least

two centuries, appears to have no influence at all on the incidence of CJD.

Scientists have been unable to find any evidence that BSE will be any more of a risk to humans than scrapie, but because the incubation period is even longer in humans than cattle, there may be no absolute certainty for at least a decade. BSE has been transmitted to laboratory mice, but attempts to infect marmoset monkeys, which are closer biologically to humans, have failed.

As a precaution, all cattle that show BSE symptoms must be slaughtered and destroyed. In addition, since late 1989 all beef carcasses have to be stripped of

brain, spleen, spinal cord and all other tissue thought capable of harbouring BSE. The agriculture ministry says that this ensures complete protection for the consumer. Most scientists agree, but there remains a question mark over the safety of beef sold before these measures went into effect.

So far only a few cases of BSE have been diagnosed outside Britain. There is no entirely convincing explanation for this, but one suggestion is that British techniques for processing animal remains into feed are or were less effective at destroying the BSE agent.

Vets' mission, page 1

Barclay brothers buy The European

The Barclay brothers have rescued *The European*, the product of Robert Maxwell's ambition to publish the continent's first "national" newspaper (Melinda Wittstock writes).

David and Frederick Barclay, the secretive Scottish-born entrepreneurs with a £500 million portfolio of shipping lines, travel businesses and luxury hotels, yesterday bought the newspaper's title, assets and distribution network after negotiations lasting more than a month. The price was understood to be more than nominal.

The twin brothers, who have no publishing experience, will not take on the newspaper's liabilities, such as redundancy payments for the 145 employees who lost their jobs last month.

Charles Garside, the former deputy editor whose own company had been paying 58 staff to produce the weekly until a buyer could be found, was yesterday appointed editor and general manager. He said: "The future of *The European* is now secure."

Over the next few days, Mr Garside and the directors of Ellerman Investments, a Barclay brothers holding company, will discuss future staffing levels. But until January 20, the paper will continue to be financed by Mr Garside's company.

Dogfight video ruled obscene

A pit bull terrier owner was fined £500 and ordered to pay £500 costs yesterday for importing an obscene video after a jury at Southwark crown court, south London, had seen the hour-long tape on which fighting pit-bulls tore out each other's flesh while an audience cheered.

Christopher Grace, of Depford, south London, who had previous convictions for possessing an offensive weapon and theft, denied the charge. It was brought by Customs and Excise, who intercepted the video on its way to Britain from Malta.

Birdwatchers died in storms

Two birdwatchers found dead on the island of Unst in the Shetlands are believed to have been killed by severe storms. The man, whose body was found on Sunday, is thought to have died from exposure, and the woman, found yesterday, from falling or being blown off a cliff near the Herma Ness bird sanctuary on the island.

Police said there were signs that the unmarried couple had been at the sanctuary and visited a spot 600ft above the sea.

Court remands two in acid case

Two men charged with carrying out an acid attack on a woman, aged 74, were remanded in custody for a further week yesterday. Anthony Langton, aged 22, and Jason Raby, aged 17, both of Banbury, Oxfordshire, first appeared before the town's magistrates on New Year's day, charged with grievous bodily harm and burglary.

A spokesman for the South Warwickshire Hospital, where Joan Cooper is being treated for burns to her face and eyes, said she was improving, although she was still in intensive care.

Art fund chief

David Barrie, the executive director of the Japan Festival, is to be the next director of the National Art Collections Fund. Mr Barrie, aged 38, was selected from 130 applicants and will succeed Sir Peter Wakefield in June. He transferred to the Cabinet Office from the Foreign Office in 1989 and was seconded to run the festival, the success of which has largely been attributed to him.

Baby charges

A nurse charged with murdering three babies and a boy aged 11 at the hospital where she worked was further remanded in custody yesterday. Beverly Allitt, aged 23, is also accused of attempting to murder another eight children or cause them grievous bodily harm with intent at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital, Lincolnshire. Miss Allitt, of Grantham, was remanded until January 16.

Store fire

A man was being questioned by police last night after a fire was started in a clothing store in Oxford shortly before a visit to the city by the prime minister. The store is about half a mile from the venue of a dinner at which John Major was to speak on agriculture.

Second IRA van bomb devastates city centre

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA detonated a huge van bomb in Belfast city centre yesterday causing widespread devastation, the second such attack in less than 24 hours.

The bomb in High Street at lunchtime followed an explosion on Sunday night that wrecked government offices and scores of shops in Bedford Street near by. The explosions caused damage running into millions of pounds but no serious injuries.

The bombs, both estimated at between 500lb and 600lb of explosive, bring to six the number of big devices planted and detonated by the IRA in the heart of Belfast in the past eight weeks. The explosions prompted protests against what many in the community, Protestant and Roman Catholic, believe to be the completely ineffective government security policy.

The manager of an insurance office badly damaged in Sunday night's blast said the IRA seemed to be able to act with impunity. He said security policy clearly was not working and ritual condemnations after the event by ministers were meaningless. "There's absolutely no point in listening to these idiotic statements that are being made by ministers - quite honestly I firmly believe that some of these people should be sacked," he said.

Peter Robinson, MP for East Belfast, challenged the government to go out and "win the war" against the IRA. He said that every successive bombing demonstrated the government's inability to beat the terrorists.

"We need a policy that will make the Provos suffer," Mr Robinson said. "We need a policy that will put the IRA on the run. That means tighter border security, more covert operations and repeated search and seizure operations. It means tougher sentencing. It means proper extradition and, if necessary, it means selective detention."

Richard Needham, economy minister at Stormont, speaking after visiting the

scene of the first bombing but before the second, expressed anger at suggestions that failures in security policy somehow made the government responsible for bombings in Belfast. The government was trying to rebuild the city not destroy it, he said.

The High Street bomb detonated as security personnel were clearing the immediate area, half an hour after a telephone warning by the IRA to a local radio station. The main target appeared to have been River House, which contains offices of the Northern Ireland Police Authority, Tourist Board and Inland Revenue. They were all badly damaged.

Mr Needham said the IRA's aim was to destroy the opportunities of people working in Belfast. The IRA, however, is believed to regard the bombings as a way of demonstrating that Northern Ireland is ungovernable while British troops remain in the province.

The offices of Crispin Rodwell, photographer for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in Northern Ireland for the past 12 years, were wrecked in yesterday's explosion. Mr Rodwell's office, on the fourth floor of Imperial Buildings, is next door to River House on High Street.

When he heard the siren in the building warning that a device was in the area, he was transmitting pictures to our London office of the scenes of devastation caused by Sunday night's bomb. "To start with I thought it was one of the all too common hoaxes, and I decided to stay on to finish wiring the picture," he said. "As soon as I had finished I left the building. Three minutes later the bomb went off."

He said that his office had structural cracks in all the walls, the ceiling had caved in, leaving strip lights dangling, windows and window frames had been blown in and all the doors had been ripped off their hinges. There was glass everywhere. "It's just total devastation," he said.



Reduced to rubble: an RUC officer checks the damage in Belfast city centre after the first van bomb exploded on Sunday night

Pre-election battleground: taxation

Labour will hit average salaries, Lamont says

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE average taxpayer on annual earnings of £14,000 would have to pay an extra £1,000 a year to pay for Labour's spending promises, Norman Lamont claimed yesterday.

In a move that threw Labour on to the defensive and marked the opening shots in an election campaign that could run for the next six months, the Chancellor alleged that Labour's spending plans had terrifying implications for ordinary people.

Contrary to claims by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and John Smith, the shadow chancellor, they would face much higher tax bills under a Labour government, he said. Mr Smith hit back by

dismissing the Conservatives' figures as absurd and ridiculous. He said: "We have made it absolutely clear there will be no increase in the standard rate of 25p under the next Labour government."

The Opposition has said that its firm pledges to increase pensions and child benefit will require abolition of the £20,280 ceiling on 9 per cent national insurance contributions and a new top rate of income tax of 50 per cent on people earning "well over" £30,000 a year.

It has maintained that these are the limit of its tax-raising ambitions, but yesterday the Tories sought to widen their assault by maintaining that Labour had a

secret "tax bombshell" that would mean higher taxes for all 25 million taxpayers. Mr Lamont tried to justify his case by repeating claims that Labour's spending pledges amount to an extra £35 billion over the lifetime of a parliament. It planned eight new or higher taxes on items such as savings, pensions, inheritance, capital gains or income, but these would together raise only an extra £10 billion.

The £25 billion gap could be bridged only by increasing taxation on ordinary people earning as little as £5,000 a year, he said. As Mr Smith argued yesterday, Labour rejects the £35 billion price tag. It insists that only its pensions and child benefit promises are firm commitments and that their cost - some £3.3 billion - can be met out of its planned increases in national insurance and the introduction of a new top rate of income tax. It insists that 88 per cent of taxpayers will be no worse off.

Its other commitments, variously described by its spokesmen as objectives or aspirations, will have to be paid for from what Neil Kinnock described on Sunday as the harvest of economic growth over the next few years. The party also had no plans to cut the basic rate of income tax.

How the Tories tot up the cost of a Kinnock win

SHOULD you cancel your summer holiday plans if Labour wins the election? Certainly, the figures at Norman Lamont's press conference at Conservative Central Office yesterday make grisly reading. Those earning between £10,000 and £20,000 a year can expect to pay an extra £1,000 a year on average, the Chancellor claimed, should more than £30,000, an extra £5,000.

How are these calculations done? The Conservatives point to certain increases in taxes to which Labour is committed. The most important of these are twofold. Firstly, the party will abolish the ceiling on earnings on which National Insurance contributions are paid by employees, currently £390 a week, rising to £405 in April. Anyone on more than that would have to find an extra 9p out of each £1 earned over the ceiling.

Secondly, Labour will raise the top rate of tax for those earning "well over" £30,000 a year to 50 per cent from the present 40 per cent. This would take an additional 10p in tax for every £1 earned in excess of whatever ceiling a Labour chancellor eventually specifies. The Tories calculate that these and other tax increases would raise a maximum of some £10 billion a year for a Labour chancellor.

The Tories go on to argue that Labour is planning to spend an extra £35 billion a year, a claim based on analysis of Labour promises by David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury.

The gap between the two - the £35 billion Labour plans to spend and the £10 billion its extra taxes will raise - is £25 billion. The Tories then assume that this £25 billion would require Labour to raise the standard rate of income tax by (they say) 10p in the pound, to 35p. This huge rise lets Mr Lamont speak of "Labour's tax bombshell".

Is his claim plausible? The National Insurance ceiling would indeed go, Labour says. That will affect some 12-13 per cent of taxpayers. If the rate of National Insurance stays unchanged, the move would cost someone on £30,000 a year £874.80.

Matters are less clear cut on the higher rate of tax. Labour has refused to clarify what it means by "well over". According to its basic policy

How reliable are Tory claims of Labour plans to send tax leaping? David Lipsey studies the figures

document, *Opportunity Britain*, "the right structure of tax rates and tax bands will, of course, be decided by Labour's Chancellor of the Exchequer at Budget time".

Undeniably, however, even if the threshold for higher-rate tax was set as low as £30,000, this would hit far fewer people than would lose from the abolition of the National Insurance ceiling.

Higher-rate tax for a single person now starts on earnings of £26,995. Only about 1.62 million of 25.1 million taxpayers pay the higher rate. What proportion have earnings of £30,000 or more is not known, but it is about 3.5 per cent of taxpayers.

The Tories' argument is weaker on the extra £25 billion that they say Labour needs for its spending. The figure is in part vulnerable because it relies on the Tories' interpretation of what Labour pledges would cost; they tend to pitch their estimates high.

However, the main weakness of this figure is that it represents the total cost of all Labour's spending hopes over a parliament. Labour has specifically said that it would not introduce them all at once. It has promised only to raise pensions and child benefits as a priority. Thereafter, it says, what it spends will depend on the growth in the economy.

This puts matters in a different perspective. If the economy grew by 2 per cent a year under Labour, national income by the end of a five-year parliament would be some £60 billion higher, and this would generate substantial extra revenue. However, the government is already counting the extra tax receipts generated by a resumption of steady growth in its medium-term estimates, which indicate high public borrowing. And Labour will find it hard to borrow much more.

Taxes might or might not go up under Labour, but only true partisans will believe the letter of Mr Lamont's claim.

Posters take a pasting

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE poster of a bomb unveiled in London yesterday to mark the start of stage two in the election campaign's "phony war" caused some dismay among passers-by.

The point of the 1,000 Conservative party posters was to depict "Labour's tax bombshell". Tory HQ promises that thousands of posters on similar themes will soon be plastered all over the country.

However, locals seeing the first poster near the Elephant and Castle roundabout, south London, a stone's throw from Labour headquarters, asked: "Are we really going to have to suffer five months of this?"

Rob Stafford thought the party's message "rather boring and predictable", while Ursula Crawford said it certainly would not make her return to the Tory fold. Joanna Reed said: "It looks like a cheap ad and the usual scaremongering before an election."

Much more is promised by the three main parties as they gear up their election machines and the campaign teams have been put on full alert to leave no policy unpublicised and no opponent's claim unquestioned.



Lamont: figures put Labour on defensive

Tax pledge, page 1

TORIES CLAIM THIS IS LABOUR'S TAX BILL

	Annual income (£)	Extra tax per week (£)	Extra tax per year (£)
Education			
Teacher, primary	18,300	26.50	1,375
Teacher, secondary	20,000	28.00	1,500
Headmaster, primary	23,000	37.50	1,950
Headmaster, secondary	32,000	58.00	3,025
National Health Service			
Staff nurse	15,700	22.00	1,150
Ward sister (inner London)	21,600	32.50	1,700
GP	38,000	70.50	3,675
Consultant	45,100	84.50	4,400
Armed forces			
Private	9,500	10.50	550
RAF flying officer	16,400	23.00	1,200
Petty officer, Royal Navy	16,800	23.00	1,225
Army major	27,400	47.50	2,475
Police			
Constable (junior)	11,800	15.00	775
Constable (senior)	19,700	28.50	1,475
Inspector	21,600	32.50	1,700
Superintendent (London)	34,200	62.50	3,250
Private sector			
Computer engineer	15,000	21.00	1,100
Accountant	20,000	29.00	1,500

Income rounded to nearest £100; annual tax increase to nearest £25; and weekly tax increases to nearest 5p

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Mob 'used dispute between shops as excuse for a riot'

BY LIN JENKINS

A MOB of 200 used a dispute between two rival shopkeepers to assault police, throw bottles and bricks and chant racist abuse in a night of rioting last summer, Cardiff court was told yesterday.

As the youths hurled missiles they chanted "Burn the Paks, bomb the Paks" and "kill the pigs" in an outbreak of violence on the Ely council estate in Cardiff last August.

Leighton Davies, for the prosecution, said.

On the opening day of the trial of five men alleged to have been involved in the riot.

Mr Davies described how one terrified Asian shopkeeper was trapped inside his shop by the rioting mob. Violence flared when a policeman was head butted as he tried to arrest a rioter. Another man went berserk as he was being arrested, screaming "fight them, fight them. Riot, riot" to those around him.

"His incitement worked as officers were punched and kicked by a number of youths," Mr Davies said, adding that one policeman was dragged away and two or more who went to help came under attack. Although about

200 people took part in the disturbance, the five accused were seen to play a prominent part, he said.

"There were numerous others involved in that ongoing disturbance who got away with it. But these five were seen, were recognised and in many ways played a prominent part in what was going on."

Mr Davies said that there was local ill-feeling when Abdul Wahed, an Asian shopkeeper, obtained an injunction to stop a neighbouring newsagent competing with him by selling food in a waste over lease.

Later on a Friday night, 50 people gathered outside the shop and three policemen were sent to disperse them. Mr Wahed and three friends were still inside the shop as more youths, many of whom had been drinking, joined the crowd and began throwing stones and bottles.

Mr Davies said that one of the accused, Lee Newbury, aged 23, wielding a flagon of cider, went berserk and threw punches at a policeman as he yelled at the crowd. He allegedly head butted a policeman while handcuffed and being taken to the police station.

When charged, Mr Newbury allegedly said police "I wasn't that drunk, was I?" PC Robert Nichols, who drove a police direct response patrol van, told the court that the vehicle was pelted with missiles and surrounded by a group of hostile youths as he and five colleagues tried to arrest troublemakers, including two of the accused.

He heard someone else shout: "Let's riot - kill the pigs." He said that he was forced to return blows for his own safety but denied that Mr Newbury was knocked almost unconscious by police blows.

PC Nichols said that the crowd's anger continued to increase and he drove away. "Bricks and bottles were being thrown after us. It was too dangerous to remain in the area any longer," he added.

Anthony Beattie, aged 22; Paul Gonzales, aged 24; Martin Thomas, aged 20; and Wayne Murphy, aged 17, deny charges of violent disorder. Mr Newbury denies the same charge and another charge of assault causing actual bodily harm.

The trial continues today.

450,000 will sit new school tests

BY JOHN O'LEARY

THE first national curriculum tests in secondary schools this summer are expected to be taken by three-quarters of the 14-year-old pupils in England and Wales.

Timothy Eggar, the education minister, said yesterday.

The pilot tests in mathematics and science will be held simultaneously on June 8 and 9. Pupils will be marked in the pilot schools, and a sample checked for accuracy by GCSE examination groups. Teachers will also make their own assessment of pupils' progress.

Each subject will have papers at four levels of increasing difficulty and teachers will choose which is most suitable for individual pupils. The cost will be about £2 per pupil for each examination.

Participation in the pilot scheme will be voluntary, but two-thirds of secondary schools in England and Wales have already registered for the tests. Ministers expect 450,000 pupils to sit the six-hour papers.

Mr Eggar said: "It is one of the weaknesses of our education system that parents have had to wait until 16-plus exams like GCSE before they could get a really accurate and objective assessment of how their children were getting on."

Schools will not be forced to publish the results of the pilot tests, although ministers hope that they will do so voluntarily. Pupils and their parents should have individual scores by the end of June.

Mr Eggar said: "It is one of the weaknesses of our education system that parents have had to wait until 16-plus exams like GCSE before they could get a really accurate and objective assessment of how their children were getting on."

Science (levels 7-10)

A man weighing 800N carries a load of 200N up some steps 2m high.

Gain in potential energy =

What is the potential energy of the load?

A 2,000 joules

B 1,600 joules

C 400 joules

D 100 joules

Dilute sulphuric acid is electrolysed using carbon electrodes.

What will be the volumes of hydrogen and oxygen evolved (measured at room temperature and pressure) after the passage of one mole of electrons?

One mole of any gas occupies 24dm³ at room temperature and pressure.

Volume of H₂/dm³

Volume of O₂/dm³

A 24 12

B 6 12

C 12 6

D 12 12

Pupils of all ages are assessed under the national curriculum on a ten-point scale. Average 14-year-olds will be expected to reach levels five or six.

ing on. This was too late."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "This is an extra duty being imposed on teachers and raises the question of whether they should be paid for marking a public exam as they are for GCSE."

The National Union of Teachers said that the tests would force teachers to teach to the test, narrowing educational opportunities.

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Tiny handful: the actress Patricia Hodge, aged 45, leaves Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Hammersmith, west London, yesterday with her second son, who weighed just over 8lb at birth 11 days ago

Rivals woo Muslim rank and file

Dr Kalim Siddiqui's parliament is not the only group representing Britain's two million Muslims. Paul Wilkinson reports

THE bitter public row over Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* made British Muslims realise that they had no national voice. The book and its attack on the prophet Muhammad, focused lingering dissatisfaction over numerous grievances into a single national issue.

Although many groups spoke for different interests, no single voice spoke on behalf of Britain's two million followers of Islam. Now, however, there is a battle raging among several groups, all of whom hope to win the support of rank and file Muslims.

Most prominent is the strongly fundamentalist, self-styled Muslim parliament, and its leader Dr Kalim Siddiqui, who grabbed the headlines last weekend. But waiting in the wings is the British Muslim Forum, a grouping of moderate professionals and intellectuals, and the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, which claims to represent more than 80 per cent of British Muslim organisations.

The Muslim parliament is the brainchild and, some rivals say, the vehicle of Dr Siddiqui, a political science graduate of University College London. He is director and founder of the Muslim Institute in central London, which was set up 20 years ago to promote Islamic culture, history and policies among British Muslims.

The parliament ultimately will have two houses. The first, the lower house which met last weekend, consists of 200 MMPs (members of the Muslim parliament) drawn from local and representative organisations, some specifically set up by the institute.

The upper house, which will assemble for the first time later this year, will have up to 1,000 MMPs selected from the ranks of British Muslims who have achieved eminence either in their community or in their professions.

The parliament will debate and vote upon bills and although they will have no legal effect, Dr Siddiqui hopes Muslims will accept their moral force.

The British Muslim Forum was created two years ago to counteract the first stirrings of the Muslim parliament. Its spokesman is Azzat Altamimi, the Palestinian journalist who edits the satirical Arab magazine *The Other Opinion*.

"We want people to understand that we should not be confrontational, like Dr Siddiqui," Mr Altamimi said. "You do not go to someone else's house and start rearranging the furniture. To take up arms against the rest of society is neither desirable or right, especially in an open country like this. We can lobby successfully for what we want."

The UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs also now

sees an expanded role for itself. Its joint convener, Iqbal Sacranie, says it was spawned by the Rushdie affair, which was the catalyst for the venting of concern over other issues, including government refusal to grant aid to Islamic schools and to tackle racial harassment. The committee also believes in a non-confrontational policy and claims several successes through its regular contact with the Home Office.

The committee speaks for numerous organisations, including the only other umbrella group, the Union of Muslim Organisations. "In a way *Satanic Verses* was a blessing in disguise," Mr Sacranie said. "It made us realise there was no single political voice. We came together to speak out about Rushdie, but there are other issues too."

Janet Daley, page 12

Robbers blamed for tourist deaths

BY RAY CLANCY AND STEPHEN TAYLOR

THE four British tourists murdered on safari in Angola were stripped of their clothes and valuables, the country's opposition leader claimed yesterday. Jonas Savimbi, of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) said, however, that his men were not responsible.

Dr Savimbi said that he was appalled by the deaths of Mercedes Mackendrick, her boyfriend, James Pilbeam, and two other tourists, Andrew Chandler and Paul Couchman, but they had behaved in a foolhardy manner by entering a dangerous area.

"It is not the time to make tourism in Angola. We have just finished 16 years of civil war," Dr Savimbi said. He denied that his former rebels could have committed the crimes and blamed robbers for the attack on three Land-Rovers containing seven Britons on the Quilengues road in Angola's Huila province on Friday night. The ambush took place near a base where thousands of former Unita rebels are confined.

Two tourists escaped the attack unscathed. A third was shot in both legs. Dr Savimbi, who is expected to be a candidate to succeed President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, suggested that former government troops might be to blame. He claimed that 40,000 of them had left encampment sites and many had not been paid.

Another theory is that the tourists were mistaken for government troops or robbers by Unita men who then ambushed them. It also emerged last night that the travellers knew they were taking a risk by going through Angola, but after months on the road in Africa, they probably felt immune to dangers.

Miss Mackendrick, aged 25, a doctor, of Lochwinnoch, Strathclyde, and Mr Pilbeam, aged 27, of Fleet, Hampshire, a former soldier, had driven through north Africa and planned to go to Namibia through Zaire, but diverted to Angola after being told that it was too dangerous to travel in Zaire.

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Doctor threatened to kill sister

BY GEOFF KING

RIVALRY between a brother and sister who worked as doctors in a family practice boiled over into violence and a death threat, a court heard yesterday.

John Marshall threatened to kill his sister, blaming her for opposing new treatment ideas that he tried to introduce. York crown court was told. During a discussion at the family home in Birstwith, North Yorkshire, Marshall slapped his sister Rosalind with the back of his hand, bruising her forehead, Jeremy Richardson, for the prosecution, said.

Marshall was charged with assault but made a series of threatening telephone calls to his sister, aged 44. On a tape played to the court he was heard to shout: "We're like two ducks cooked in the same oven. I'll kill you and I'll get you if it kills me too."

Marshall, aged 38, admitted charges of assault and making threats to kill was given a nine-month sentence suspended for a year.

The court was told that

rivalry between the two had increased since Marshall joined his sister and their father at the family

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we're the biggest that we're
top of this list.**

LIFE MANAGED FUNDS 40 LARGEST FUNDS WITH A 5 YEAR RECORD			
Position	Company Name	Fund Size (£m)	Average Ranking
1	Allied Dunbar	1622.80	3.6
2	Equity & Law	297.80	6.4
3	Norwich Union	178.9	8.6
4	Standard Life	794.1	9.0
5	Black Horse	356.8	9.6
6	Teachers	108.0	11.0
7	Clerical Medical/Fidelity	276.2	11.8
8	Acuma	103.0	12.0
9	Royal Heritage	90.8	12.0
10	Sun Life Distribution	481.7	12.2
11	London & Manchester	109.4	12.6
12	London Life	100.3	13.6
13	Albany	224.9	16.2
14	Sun Life of Canada	227.7	18.2
15	Crown	139.4	17.6
16	Abbey	521.0	18.0
17	Sun Life Managed	246.7	18.2
18	Pearl	214.1	18.4
19	General Portfolio	91.2	19.0
20	TSB	336.6	19.0
21	Scottish Equitable	190.1	19.2
22	Hill Samuel	315.5	19.4
23	Confederation Life	93.9	22.0
24	Provident Mutual	388.8	23.4
25	M & G	104.6	23.8
26	Friends Provident	93.5	28.0
27	Prudential	463.0	27.2
28	Scottish Mutual	519.4	30.4
29	Scottish Widows	121.7	30.6
30	Sun Alliance	234.5	31.2
31	Scottish Amicable	319.3	31.8
32	NPI	199.1	32.0
33	Laurentian	163.9	32.6
34	GRE	398.7	33.0
35	Manulife	128.4	35.8
36	Barclays Life	392.5	39.2
37	Eagle Star	97.0	
38	Cornhill	123.5	
39	Prolific	118.7	
40	Commercial Union	177.8	

Allied Dunbar's Life Managed Fund has achieved the best average ranking over the last one, two, three, four and five years.

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Hidden rises add to the dismay of rail travellers

By TIM JONES

RAIL commuters braced for increased fares yesterday found that for many of them the true rise in travelling cost was far higher than the double-inflation one they had expected. Some had to pay 40 per cent more to travel to work.

Travel costs were inflated by several unpublicised increases. Most commuters appeared to be totally unprepared for rises of more than 25 per cent in the cost of parking their vehicles in station car parks.

Elderly passengers on British Rail services to London were told that they could no longer enjoy reduced rate tickets for travelling on the Underground. In addition, the 50 per cent reduction they used to enjoy when buying an off-peak travel card has been reduced to one third.

Last week, Mary Chappell, a pensioner, paid £3.35 a day for a return ticket from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, to Marylebone, which included onward travel to a central zone Tube station. Yesterday, she was charged £4.70, an increase of 42 per cent, for making the same journey.

She said: "I think it is disgusting. I enjoy my job in town but it is getting to the point where it is hardly worth doing. I will have to speak to my employers to see whether they understand the position."

Gun raider wounds post man

By LIN JENKINS

A SUB-POSTMASTER shot after he refused to hand over cash to an armed robber was in a serious condition last night after undergoing emergency surgery.

Manmohan Singh Bhalla, aged 41, was wounded in the stomach yesterday morning after he refused to hand over cash and objected as his attacker tried to follow him into the secure part of a sub-post office at Westbourne Park Road, Notting Hill, west London.

Two customers, one a young girl, heard Mr Bhalla protesting shortly before a shotgun was fired and the attacker fled out of the back of the shop. It is not known whether anything was stolen in the raid, which took place shortly before 9am.

Mr Bhalla was admitted to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he underwent surgery for the wounds inflicted by the single-barrelled sawn-off shotgun.

Inspector Ian Dyson, of Notting Hill police station, said: "We do not know how many people were in the shop, but we believe there may have been a number of customers who fled when they heard the shot." He appealed for anyone who saw the attacker, described as black, aged about 27, 5ft 6in, and with short afro hair, to come forward.

Riaz Dooley, who runs a neighbouring travel shop, said that Mr Bhalla, married with two children, was not the type to be easily intimidated. "He is a strong-willed chap and I can imagine him not giving in to a robber," he said. "I've known him for 15 years and you could not meet a friendlier chap. You read about these things, but it is a terrible shock when they happen on your doorstep. I'm just praying he pulls through."

A spokesman for Post Office Counters said: "Everyone in the Post Office is outraged by this crime, which was carried out with vicious disregard for the victim."

If I were a pensioner in London I would be able to claim free travel. It seems most unfair to me."

British Rail said: "The reduced Underground fares were not socially subsidised in any way and we could no longer afford them."

At Liverpool Street station, many commuters paying fares 8 per cent higher than the week before claimed that the new fares were too much for the service provided.

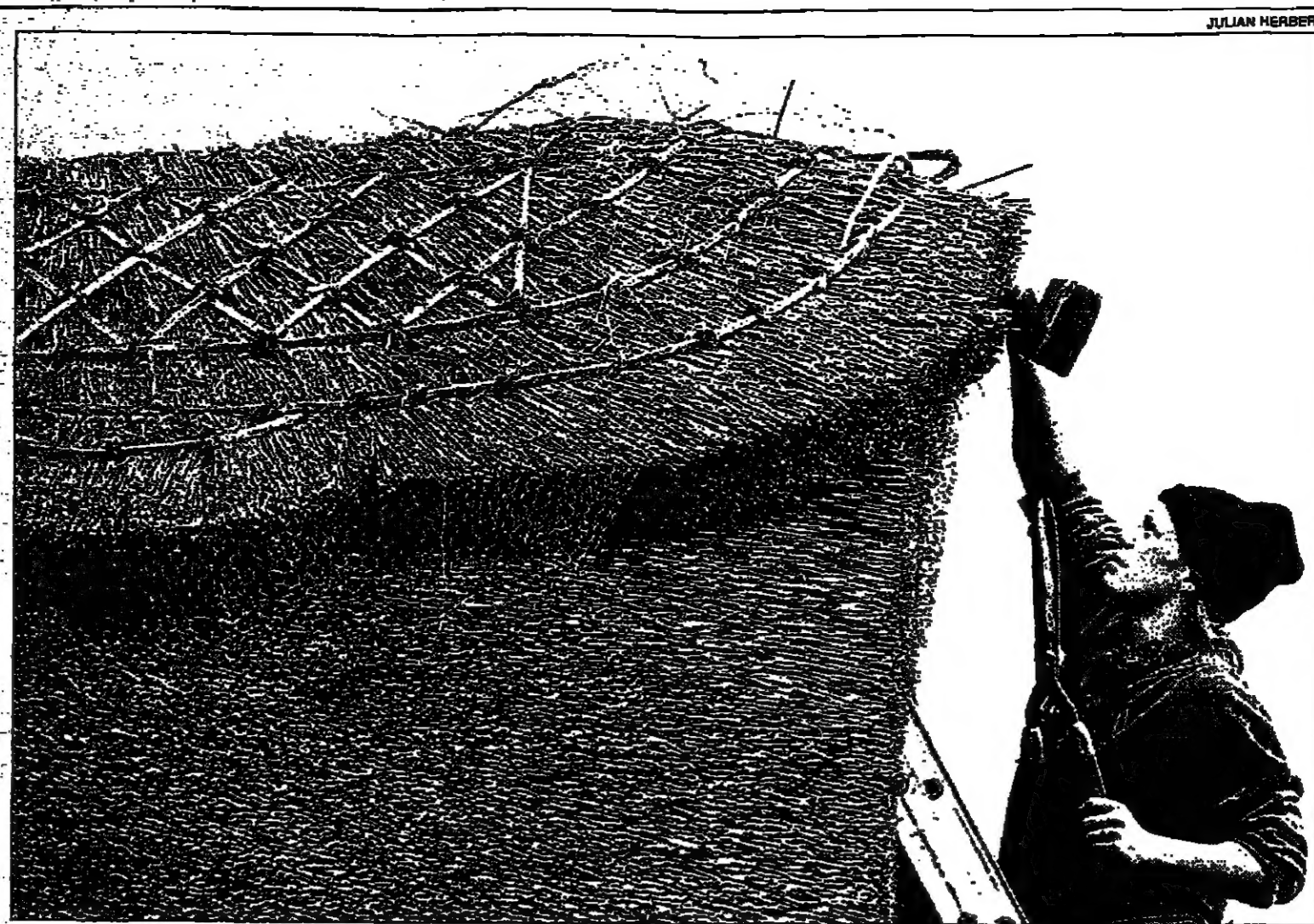
Alan Cook, aged 45, must pay 9 per cent more for his £245 quarterly season ticket from Clides Park, Essex, because of improvements to the service on his line. He said: "I don't think the price rise is merited. There is scope for further improvement. I accept that because of increases generally there do have to be some price rises but they should be no greater than the rate of inflation."

Mr Cook, a chartered surveyor working for a financial services company in the City, said that the increase would add to pressure on those already feeling the pinch.

James Swanson, an executive search consultant, yesterday endured a ten-minute delay on his journey into St Pancras from Kettering, Northamptonshire, as well as a rise in his fare. He is now paying £89 a week for a ticket, which also covers London Transport, compared with the £35 a week he was paying when he moved to Kettering four years ago.

He said: "How can British Rail justify a rise of 8 per cent at a time when they know many of their customers have either lost their jobs in the past year because of the recession, or if they haven't lost their job they have had to accept a pay rise lower than the inflation rate or no rise at all? The service hasn't improved in any way over the past four years. My fares have more than doubled, but my salary hasn't."

John Prescott, shadow transport minister, said: "Not only do we have the most expensive fare system in Europe but the greatest burden is on those least able to afford it."



Straw in the wind: Kate Glover, who has become the first woman member of the National Society of Master Thatchers, working on a house at Stanford Dingley, Berkshire. The society celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and claims to be the oldest national body in the craft. Miss Glover, aged 26, of Reading, has worked for a Berkshire thatching company since leaving art college in 1987

Doctors test anti-cancer diet on middle-aged men

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANGES in diet could give protection against cancer and provide relief from arthritis, researchers said yesterday.

Doctors in Aberdeen are launching a study to test the theory that a diet rich in vitamins such as those in carrots and oranges can help to protect against, and possibly prevent, some cancers.

In a three-year project funded by the Cancer Research Campaign, men aged over 50 will be given vitamins A, C and E, and samples of their blood will be analysed for early signs of the changes in blood cells that can lead to cancer. Natural chemicals in the body can cause such changes, but their impact might be reduced by vitamin-rich diets, doctors believe.

The study will be based at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, and the findings compared with statistics from southern Italy and Greece, where such diets are

more common and there are lower rates of cancer of the breast and colon.

Last November, scientists launched what is claimed to be the world's biggest investigation of the links between diet and cancer. More than 400,000 people in eight European countries, including 85,000 in Britain, will take part. The first results are expected in about five years.

People who switch to a low-fat diet might gain some relief from arthritis, and fish oil and evening primrose oil might also help. The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said yesterday: "Diet could play a role in aggravating the symptoms among many of Britain's eight million sufferers. John Kirwan, consultant senior lecturer in rheumatology at Bristol University, said:

Dr Kirwan is author of an educational booklet published yesterday by the council. "There is increasing

evidence that diet can affect some forms of arthritis," he said. "As far as we can tell at present, low-fat diets, cutting out red meat, full-fat milk, butter and confectionery made with butter, together with an increased intake of some cold water fish or vegetable oil, may enable people to take fewer pain killers and anti-inflammatory drugs."

Obesity seemed to make arthritis symptoms worse, but there was no convincing evidence that changes in vitamins or minerals made any difference to arthritis. Sufferers thinking about big changes to their diet should seek the advice of a doctor or dietician first, Dr Kirwan said.

Diet and Arthritis is available free by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the council at Brunel Drive, Northern Road industrial estate, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2DE.

Dentists demand extra NHS pay

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GROWING concern about the number of dentists giving up NHS work has forced the government to act to stem the drift to the private sector. Ministers fear that in some areas, particularly London and the South-East, many patients have great difficulty finding an NHS dentist.

After months in which the health department denied there was a shortage, ministers are now demanding that a solution be found. British Dental Association negotiators are to meet department officials tomorrow to discuss changes to dentists' pay aimed at rewarding those who make the greatest commitment to the NHS.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, met leaders of the association before Christmas. "He was concerned about provision for children, especially those with very bad mouths who may find it difficult to get on a dentist's NHS list," Joe Rich, chairman of the association's general services committee, said. "But he was also concerned about areas of the country where it is difficult for adults to get on a list."

The change of heart by ministers follows a health department survey last autumn

to check on the availability of dentists to NHS patients. Publication of the results has been delayed — to save ministerial embarrassment, dentists suspect — but they will be released shortly.

A similar survey by the association last summer showed that the proportion of dentists accepting private patients had doubled in the past year, with half those in London and one third elsewhere in the South-East now accepting private patients. Several family service health authorities, formerly family practitioner committees, have had to help patients find an NHS dentist.

The department is understood to want to create a new allowance payable at different levels according to the amount of time a dentist spends treating health service patients, and to increase the payments for treating children.

But there is disagreement over how the changes are to be funded. The department wants to reduce existing payments, leaving dentists with the same average NHS earnings of £32,500 a year. The association says the changes must be paid for with extra funds.

Cycle study attacks car pollution

If Britons used cycles for a fifth of their journeys, nitrogen oxide emissions from cars would be cut by 30,000 tonnes a year and carbon monoxide by 215,000 tonnes, says a study published today.

Seventy-five per cent of personal journeys and 61 per cent of car trips are less than five miles long, says the report by the Cyclists' Touring Club. If 20 per cent of non-walking journeys were made by cycle, more than 6.5 billion miles of car travel would be eliminated a year.

The government and local authorities are urged to plan "cycle-friendly" towns and encourage a cultural shift to cycling. "Continental-style levels of cycling would cut pollution, ease congestion and make people fitter," a club spokesman said.

BR death case

Neil Cannon, aged 35, a British Rail worker, was charged at Exeter magistrates' court with the manslaughter of a colleague who was crushed to death in a shunting engine cab in a crash last July.

Body enquiry

A woman car passenger complained to a Co-op funeral parlour at Darlington, Co Durham, that staff wheeled a body in a bag across the pavement upright on a trolley, "like a bag of potatoes". The company said the body was on a wheeled stretcher and good procedure was not breached.

Hostage alert

Police took a gun and ammunition from a Co-op funeral parlour at Darlington, Co Durham, that staff wheeled a body in a bag across the pavement upright on a trolley, "like a bag of potatoes". The company said the body was on a wheeled stretcher and good procedure was not breached.

Hurt's record

John Hurt, the actor, reads a poem on a record to be released this month to help raise £1.5 million for an alcoholic treatment centre near his home in Co Kildare.

Dummer raid

Thieves stole polo and garden equipment worth £10,000 from the home of Major Ronald Ferguson, the Duchess of York's father, at Dummer, Hampshire.

Family anger

The family of a widow aged 89, who suffered a fatal stroke, blame her death on a Christmas day burglary at her home in Bestwood Park, Nottinghamshire.

Wily bird

A family of four were woken to a fire at their home in Basingstoke, Hampshire, by the squawking of their parrot.



Homeless no more: Eva Burrows meets people the Salvation Army helped

Homeless in the front line

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Salvation Army yesterday announced plans to raise £35 million over five years to help London's homeless.

The charity intends to increase the number it can help in London from 750 to 1,000, and to upgrade its dormitory-style hostels. About £27 million will be sought from the government through the Housing Corporation. A public appeal for £8 million will be launched later this year. A £200,000 news-

paper and radio advertising campaign started yesterday.

The government is considering requests for about £15.5 million for the army to provide two new hostels and 130 flats in London.

According to research for the charity, London's homelessness is as bad as any big Third World city's, with 73,000 in squats, hostels and bed-and-breakfast hotels, and 2,000 sleeping rough. The army plans to extend

its remit beyond emergency help. Homeless people will be encouraged to move from hostels to semi-permanent accommodation. Commissioner John Larsson said: "People need not live on the street. People need not live permanently in hostels."

General Eva Burrows, the charity's world leader, said: "Homelessness is not just a social evil in itself. It is the catalyst and the breeding ground for other problems."

Justice waits for jurors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT Old Bailey courts could hear no cases yesterday when large numbers of jurors failed to arrive after the Christmas break.

The severe shortage of jurors was made worse because court officials had tried to avoid disrupting Christmas holidays and excused 200 of the 500 summoned last Thursday for the start of the New Year term. The Lord Chancellor's department was seeking spare jurors yesterday from other London courts and the Home Counties and using buses to bring them to the Old Bailey.

The department said jurors called to begin their two weeks' service last Thursday had been expected to cover this week's court needs. "A large number failed to turn up and are being pursued and invited to attend tomorrow," a spokesman said.

Jurors can be fined for failing to attend without reasonable cause when summoned. If insufficient jurors are found, trials at some of the 19 courts at the Old Bailey could be affected until next Monday when more than 150 new jurors are due to report for duty.

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Class war rhetoric dogs Ireland's comrades

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND's Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party is in the throes of a life-threatening identity crisis as its leader attempts reforms in the face of fierce opposition from the old guard.

Proinsias de Rossa, the party president and MEP, denies that a damaging split is imminent and claims that an overwhelming majority support his programme.

The party, with seven members in the Dáil, is the descendant of Official Sinn Féin — the political wing of

the IRA. Despite revolutions in the eastern bloc and the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has clung doggedly to what many in the party now see as the embarrassing language of revolutionary Marxism.

At the party's last annual conference, in May, for example, the headline contingent from Northern Ireland forced an amendment to the new programme for democratic socialism, emphasising "the central importance of the class struggle, the working class and the role of a revolutionary democratic socialist party in the movement for political, economic and social change and the

transformation of capitalist society". Mr de Rossa and his supporters believe that such rhetoric is out of touch with the perceptions of voters on the Irish left.

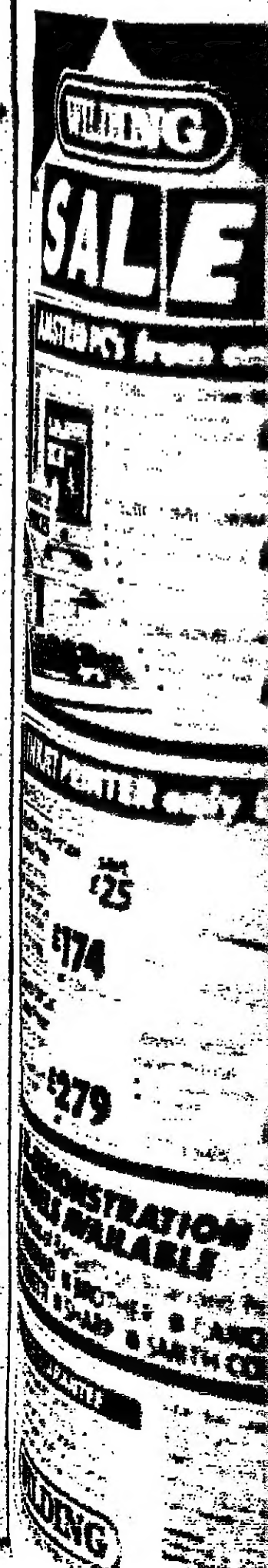
An internal report to be debated in March advocates sweeping changes in the rules and structures of the party as part of Mr de Rossa's vision of a more modern and democratic socialist image.

That vision is opposed by a small but influential clique of traditionalists led by Sean Garland, the party's Dublin-based national treasurer, and Cathal Goulding, the former chief of staff of the IRA, who seem

determined to engineer a split over the reform programme. The division can only further weaken a party deep in debt and unable to shake off allegations of continued links with the racketeering activities of the IRA in Northern Ireland.

Further damage was caused recently by allegations that big payments were made to the party in 1989 and 1990 by the Communist party of the Soviet Union. The Workers' party is also suffering in the electorate's eyes from its past support of dictatorial eastern bloc regimes and its failure to condemn human rights abuses in those states.

Americans believe
CIA killed Kennedy

NISSAN

CDs and chart singles turn tables on LPs

Record stores give 12in disc final spin

THE satisfying black sheen of a new LP record may soon be a thing of the past. Already several high street stores are phasing out their stocks of vinyl and preferring to stock only chart singles.

The compact disc now accounts for 46 per cent of album sales, while the LP has an 8 per cent share of the market. It is also becoming increasingly hard to find anything other than popular recordings on vinyl.

The megastores in central London could produce three copies of David Bowie's *Hunky Dory* yesterday, and one copy of Mozart's "Serenade for Winds". There were no complete sets of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Lovers of piped lift music would have had to hurry to snap up the one copy of *At the Theatre*.

Alison Roberts charts the decline and fall of the once popular long-playing album.

with Mantovani in the Virgin Megastore on Oxford Street. W H Smith joined Boots and Woolworths yesterday by declaring its intention to stop selling vinyl LPs. Brian Worrell, head of music at Smiths, emphasised the economic motives behind the decision. Some newly released albums sell on average less than one a week.

"We know from market research that people have a very strong emotional attachment to vinyl, but they are just not buying it any more. Record companies have been cutting back on the amount of vinyl

they release and on the number of existing titles they hold," he said.

The Virgin record store on Tottenham Court Road stocks 238,000 compact disc titles compared to only 90,000 different LPs. "For 95 per cent of the population who do not have 12,000 turntables the compact disc has been a revelation," a Virgin spokesman said.

The music industry has been quite Luddite about technology change in the past. But this time is going to see some major technological innovations, and vinyl will simply be pushed out.

Jeremy Silver, of the British Phonographic Industry, said that the LP had been relegated to a specialist market. "DJs will still want records, and some customers still prefer LPs from a cultural point of view. This whole process of phasing out the record has been very slow in Britain compared to our counterparts in Japan and America," he said.

No-one can deny that the 12in LP is aesthetically more pleasing than the 4in compact disc, and that they are eminently more collectable.

Fans of the black vinyl will be glad to know that the Liverpool Our Price store had a full selection of Beatles' LPs. "Because it's Liverpool and people want the records," the manager said.

Trams get quietly back on the track

By RONALD FAUX

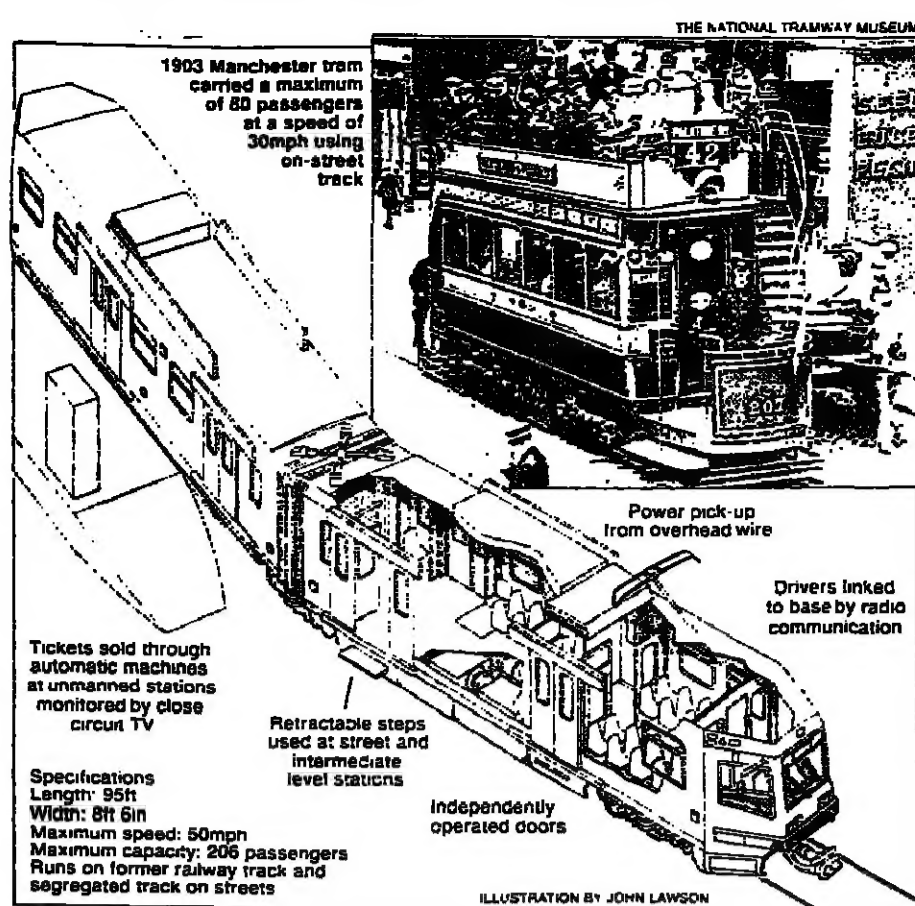
TRAMS will return to the centre of Manchester next month after an absence of half a century. But the new "supertrams" of the Metrolink system, right as far removed from the clanking double-deckers that once whined and rattled through the city's streets.

The new fleet of 26 vehicles will zip at 50mph through Manchester's outskirts along British Rail lines, then slow to a sedate pace through the city centre. They are spacious and can carry 200 passengers in comfort or 270 "crush-loaded".

The trams run along welded track set in shock-absorbent material, using wheels with rubber inserts to muffle the clanking. Retractable steps adjust to platform or street level and there is special access for wheelchairs. Acceleration will be much improved and for emergency braking electro-magnets clamp on to the track.

The objective of the £130 million scheme is to ease traffic congestion and cut the pollution caused by car and lorry exhausts.

The first phase of the Metrolink system will open between Manchester Victoria station and Bury on February 21. Piccadilly Gardens and the GMEX



centre will be linked in March and the service between GMEX and Altrincham is scheduled to open a month later with a spur from Piccadilly Gardens to Piccadilly railway station ready by early June. The Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority is trying to raise funds to extend the system to Salford Quays and Rochdale. The Metrolink will give a service every five minutes at peak times, whisking 10,000 passengers an hour in each direction across the city and carrying more than 10 million commuters a year. The fares structure will be plucked to encourage commuters to leave their cars at home. A supertram depot has opened at Cheetham Hill, where the vehicles will be kept secure from vandals when they are not in service. The operations centre at Queens Road controls the signalling system and monitors every tram. On the railway sections any vehicle passing a red signal will be stopped automatically. When the vehicle is operating in the city centre, the driver will obey normal traffic signals. The Metrolink system will eventually serve 26 stations within 20 miles of the city centre with automatic machines dispensing tickets and closed circuit television cameras on watch throughout the system.

Fleeing mayor is jailed for a year

Grenoble: Jacques Médecin, the former mayor of Nice accused of underworld links by the late Graham Greene, was sentenced to a year's jail and fined 2.5 million francs (about £250,000) for misuse of public funds.

Médecin, aged 62, a right-wing politician who fled to Uruguay in September 1990, was found guilty of using city funds to pay the costs of a magazine backing his political campaigns. He said in Uruguay he had fled because he could not expect a fair trial. (Reuters)

Markov death

Sofia: Stoyan Savov, the former Bulgarian deputy interior minister linked to the 1978 "umbrella murder" in London of the exiled dissident Georgi Markov, was found dead yesterday near his birthplace of Lesichevo, about 60 miles southwest of here. He was to go on trial tomorrow for removing Markov's file from state archives. (Reuters)

Stark surrender

Huntington Beach, California: Kent L. Maynard, aged 40, a machine operator depressed because he could not work after an accident, shot at police during a siege at his flat here, and then surrendered wearing only a baseball cap. (AP)

Tourists down

Delhi: Tourist arrivals in India slipped by almost 8 per cent during 1991, designated Visit India Year. Several reasons, including the Gulf War, the recession, security in Jamaica and Kashmir and political uncertainty after the killing of Rajiv Gandhi, are blamed. (AFP)

Battle for gold

Toulouse: More than 100 miners fought riot police in Carcassonne over plans to close the loss-making Salgigne mine. Western Europe's last gold mine. It will close next month unless a buyer is found. (Reuters)

Americans 'believe CIA killed Kennedy'

New York: Almost three quarters of Americans believe that there was a conspiracy behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 1963, and half of those think the CIA was involved, according to a poll for *Time* magazine. Almost as many thought the Mafia was behind it. (Reuters)

Jerusalem: Joseph Taylor, a Princeton professor, is named winner of the \$65,000 Wolf Prize in physics. The Israel-based Wolf Foundation credited him with advances in research on radio pulsars, the spinning, magnetized neutron stars that function as accurate clocks. (Reuters)

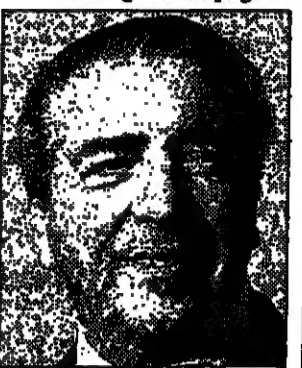
Nairobi: Kenyan police yesterday questioned Ouko Ombaka, director of the national Public Law Institute, who said that President Daniel arap Moi had backed a gov-

ernment cover-up of the murder 21 months ago of former foreign minister Robert Ouko. Mr Ombaka claimed in a weekly magazine that he believed Moi knew Ouko's killers. (Reuters)

Alan Parker, aged 47, director of hit films including *The Commitments*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Rain*, *Midnight Express*, *Scarface*, *Evil Heart*, was divorced in the London Divorce Court yesterday from Annie, his wife of 25 years. His adultery was not contested.

Bern: The Chinese premier, Li Peng, will visit Switzerland this month, and go on to Spain, Portugal, Cyprus and Malta. Reports suggest that Chinese authorities failed to persuade London, Paris and Bonn to agree to an official visit, though Li may meet Jolles Major in Davos. (AP)

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Death of antiquities, page 11
Leading article, page 13



Mantovani: no longer stringing along on LP

Father seeks divorce for son in coma

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCE is absorbed by the chronicle of a talented violinist who has sought a new life since her husband lapsed into a deep coma. Besides raising new legal issues, the plight of Valerie Ducani also touches such sensitive aspects of life as religion, divorce, and competing family ties.

Marc Ducani, then musical director of the Marseilles opera, received a serious electric shock when he was working on the couple's new house a few weeks after their marriage in September 1986. He has lain silent in a hospital room ever since, apparently unable to respond to

the music that his wife, who plays with the Toulouse opera, performs as often as possible at the bedside.

Four years after the accident, Mme Ducani began a relationship with Frank Getreau, an actor. The two have had a son. Now — though she has no intention of ending her marriage, which, despite Marc's condition, she still regards as a living commitment — Mme Ducani is being sued for divorce by her husband's father, acting as his legal guardian.

To him, Mme Ducani's conduct amounts to "betrayal" of the strictly traditional catholic precepts on which his son was brought up and which, he claims, she accepted implicitly with her

wedding vows. Mme Ducani's lawyers argue that adultery, in whatever circumstances, has not been acceptable as "pre-emptory" grounds for divorce since 1975 and that French law makes no provision for anybody but a spouse to initiate an action.

Doctors believe that Marc's condition is not irreversible and that he may be at least partially aware of what is going on around him. It is now up to a judge to issue a final ruling which, as *Le Parisien* observed, involves trying to put himself inside the mind of a stricken man in a hospital bed before reaching a decision that will break hearts on one side or the other.

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North Korea offered nuclear deal Bush prepared to cancel manoeuvres

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Bush held out a new prize yesterday to tempt North Korea to permit inspection of its nuclear programme — cancellation of the annual American military exercises with South Korea.

The "Team Spirit" manoeuvres, which are normally the largest held by America outside its own territory, have long been a bone of contention with Pyongyang.

North Korea has promised three times in the past year to sign agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Each time it attached different conditions, such as the removal of American nuclear weapons from the South or the inspection of Southern military installations. Both those con-

ditions have been met. Mr Bush's offer appears to offer an opportunity to remove the last irritant.

The latest promise came after Pyongyang and Seoul signed a declaration on December 31 promising to free the peninsula of nuclear weapons. Pyongyang is believed to have a nuclear weapons programme under way that could yield a bomb within the next 18 months. That prospect, combined with the expected takeover of the North Korean leadership by Kim Jong Il some time this year, is causing great concern in Washington and Seoul. North Korea has said that it will hold a news conference today to clarify its position.

The prospects for peace in

Korea, Mr Bush told a press conference, "are brighter than at any point in the past four decades". He coupled his optimism with a promise that America will keep forces in the region "as long as there is a need and we are welcome". The president held a joint press conference with the South Korean president, Roh Tae Woo, and later addressed the national assembly.

"If North Korea fulfils its obligations and takes steps to implement the inspection agreements, then President Roh and I are prepared to forgo the 'Team Spirit' obligation this year," Mr Bush said. The president said that better relations were possible between America and North Korea if Pyongyang ceased being a threat to its neighbours, fulfilled its nuclear pledges, and improved its human rights record.

South Korea has been wary of the North using the nuclear issue as a bargaining chip to open direct contacts with America, but President Roh, too, said that he was in favour of improved American ties with North Korea if Pyongyang "ceases to be a threat". Mr Roh said "there were a lot of worries" about North Korean compliance with nuclear inspection, but North Korea had promised to allow international inspection and "in my view, they will faithfully follow through".

President Bush flies into Japan today on the first official visit by an American president since 1983. With one eye on the reactions of the American electorate, he will be primed for four days of "tough talking" with the Japanese over their stubborn \$40 billion (£21.6 billion) trade surplus with America and what are perceived to be unfair Japanese barriers to American exports.

With the recession casting a shadow over the approaching American presidential election, Mr Bush will be forced to suppress his geopolitical instincts on this trip. Instead, he will be required to play the role of car salesman, battling for American access to Japanese markets, a privilege that the Japanese fear has been linked, in the minds of the American electorate, with a miraculous recovery for the American economy.

To stiffen his resolve, Mr Bush will be shepherded by a delegation of 20 senior executives from recession-hit industries who are having trouble selling their cars, refrigerators and other products to Japan's consumers. Although the Japanese are naturally alarmed at the prospect of being blamed for the American recession, they are, characteristically, well prepared for Mr Bush's visit. They are expected to offer all manner of soothing statements designed to strengthen Mr Bush's position at home.

The prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, was in a conciliatory mood yesterday. "I intend to assist the United States as much as possible," he said.

Leading article, page 13



Calligrapher's block: Barbara Bush, who is accompanying President Bush on the American leader's 12-day tour of Asia-Pacific countries, laughing yesterday at her attempt at Korean calligraphy in the national museum in Seoul, South Korea. The best efforts

of her instructor, Kwon Oh Sil, seemed to be of little help. President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea sent Mrs Bush 47 red roses to mark her 47th wedding anniversary yesterday. The American president, when he was asked what present he planned to give

his wife to mark the occasion, refused to say, remarking: "I don't want to ruin the surprise because I haven't made up my mind yet." President Bush added that the South Korean leader's gift of flowers "almost had Mrs Bush in tears".

Settlers challenge peace process

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN RACHAELIM, WEST BANK

THE muddy tents and plastic water tanks located on this windswept plot do not at first look like much of a threat to Middle East peace prospects. Sandwiched between two Palestinian villages on a bleak stretch of road under the watchful eye of an Israeli army position, Rachaelim, with a population of fifteen, pales in comparison to the scores of rapidly expanding settlements that dominate the snowy hillsides of the occupied West Bank.

But yesterday the fledgling settlement, founded on the spot where two Israelis were killed in an ambush by Palestinian gunmen on the eve of the Madrid peace talks, became the focus of the latest demonstration by Jewish extremists in a campaign to ensure that Israel never relinquishes an inch of what they regard as their God-given land.

To make the point, hundreds of heavily armed settlers joined by several right-wing members of the Knesset and at least two cabinet ministers renewed their vows to challenge anyone, even the

right-wing Yitzhak Shamir, who dares even to consider any compromise.

"One day this will be a proper community, and not just here but everywhere in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza," Rahamim Zevi, the leader of the extremist Molodet party and a cabinet minister in the coalition government, said.

Mr Zevi, with the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party, renewed threats yesterday to pull out of Mr Shamir's government if the Israeli negotiators now in Washington offer Palestinians self-rule in the occupied territories.

Peace talks: The Israeli delegation to the Middle East peace talks arrived in Washington yesterday and immediately went on the offensive against their absent Arab negotiating partners, chiding them for not arriving on time. (Our Foreign Staff writes). In Cairo, the Egyptian government said, however, that the peace process would collapse if Israel continued such actions as the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Blast lays bare dangers still plaguing Beirut

Adam Kellihier looks at the prospects for peace in Lebanon and the chances for a repeat of last year's respite from violence in 1992

THE car bomb attack in Beirut which killed 15 people last week was the latest sign that Syrian security in Beirut can still fail to deter the determined. Even if the Syrian interior minister's promise to hang the bombers at the blast site is fulfilled, the rule of law is unlikely to gain new respect in Lebanon in 1992.

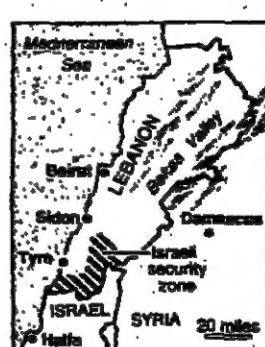
The high point of peace was last summer, when about 300,000 expatriate Lebanese returned to sample the extraordinary life-style of their nation. They stayed at beach clubs, dined and danced at elegant restaurants and had grand reunions with friends and relatives who chose to endure 16 years of civil war. But most of the well-heeled tourists have left, saying it would take another year to prove that peace would last.

That their doubts were well founded has been shown by the bombing of the main building of the American University of Beirut on November 8, and by escalating violence in southern Lebanon between the proxies of Syria and Israel to score diplomatic points in the US-brokered peace process.

Conspiratorial conjecture is a national hobby in Lebanon. The blame for any action which undermines the nation's chances of peace is attributed to Syria, Israel and America. But it is still Lebanese killing Lebanese. To rebuild a war-torn infrastructure, the Syrian-appointed cabinet desperately needs to tap funds — estimated to exceed \$20 billion (about £11 billion) — that are held by emigre Lebanese.

A pull-out of Syria's 140,000-strong contingent would almost certainly be followed by an outburst of adventurism and lawlessness, whether from Christians, Hezbollah, or just bandits. A yardstick of Lebanese security is the safety of foreigners in Lebanon, now that most Western hostages have been freed.

An experience of my own, just days before the last three American captives were freed, underlines the fact that Beirut's streets are not yet safe. My mistake was to break the cardinal rule for foreigners



in Beirut: I arranged in advance to be at a certain place at a certain time.

The appointment was to check a used car with a young man I had met at a barber's shop. He took me and a female companion to a car park off a busy street in a good area of west Beirut. A battered Volvo screamed to a halt beside us, and two men jumped out, leaving a driver inside.

They were all in their early thirties and had the appearance of devout Shiites, with thick, dark beards and the look of intensity I had seen during Hezbollah rallies in the southern suburbs. One, coming close to me, asked in Arabic if the car was for sale. We went to check another car, only to be followed and again confronted at close quarters by the bearded men, who were obviously disconcerted to find a woman present. Volvos are the preferred abduction vehicle. Our Lebanese companion pulled us over to his car, hissing: "Don't speak English to that man. He is dangerous. It is dangerous to be a foreigner in Lebanon."

We backtracked through the labyrinth of west Beirut. Lebanese investigators subsequently suggested that the two men were either recalcitrant Hezbollah members, angered that hostage-taking was no longer sanctioned by their Iranian paymasters, or recruits paid by Libya.

The Lebanese authorities are slowly restoring order. But it is perhaps unwise to assume that the kind of Beirut gangs which stole years from the lives of hostages like John McCarthy have been tamed or reformed.

Call for security force in Somalia

Nairobi: An armed peace-keeping force with the backing of the United Nations and other international organisations should be sent to Somalia to protect aid workers and bring peace to the country after a year of civil war, the UN under-secretary for African affairs, said yesterday (Sam Kiley writes).

Speaking after a series of visits to Mogadishu, which has been devastated by seven weeks of fighting between rival members of the United Somali Congress, James Jonah said that "nothing short of a peacekeeping force would be acceptable as a solution to the problems."

Mr Jonah was sent to the war-torn Somali capital by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the outgoing UN secretary-general. He ended his mission yesterday and will make his report in New York later this week.

Although he emphasised that his visit to Mogadishu, as well as to the north of Somalia where a UN worker was murdered at the weekend, was "to gather information and make a report to the UN Security Council", he ignored the usual diplomatic protocol and named General Muhammad Farrah Aidid as being the greatest obstacle to a ceasefire in the war which has so far claimed between 5,000 and 10,000 lives.

Saddam boast

Nicosia: President Saddam Hussein marked Iraq's army day with a defiant speech boasting of missile attacks on Israel during the war and insisting that his forces were ready to take on all new enemies.

Rebels retreat

Ndjamena: Chadian rebels loyal to Hissène Habré, the deposed president, have retreated to the Niger border area after suffering heavy casualties during a government counter-offensive last week, military sources said. (Reuters)

Newsman held

Moscow: Prince Johnson, the Liberian renegade rebel, has detained two journalists, including a local correspondent for the BBC. An official of the West African peacekeeping force in Monrovia was trying to contact the rebel camp. (Reuters)

Firearm taken

Jerusalem: General Yossi Ben-Hanan, national security council chief and famous for war exploits in 1967 and 1973, fired at the tyres of a car reportedly following him. Police took his firearm. The general is close to an ultra-orthodox Jewish sect. (AFP)

Archer mission

Istanbul: Jeffrey Archer, the author, is reported to have met Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish nationalist party, in Salahaddin. He is now on his way to Chama, where Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has his base.

Kaunda goes

Lusaka: Zambia's opposition United National Independence party said it had accepted the resignation of former president Kenneth Kaunda as party leader. The party would hold a congress in April to elect a new leader, an official said. (Reuters)

Four executed

Peking: A married couple and two other people have been executed in the northern Chinese city of Harbin for kidnapping and selling more than 60 women for prostitution. (Reuters)

Canine curb

Peking: Police and dogcatchers in Shanghai plan to kill tens of thousands of pet dogs in the next few months, the Liberation Daily reported. The measure is designed to combat rabies and reduce noise. (AFP)

Getting better

La Jolla, California: Mother Teresa remains in a fair condition and seems to be "getting back to her old feisty self" as she recovers in hospital from pneumonia. Doctors hope the nun, aged 81, will be out of the intensive care unit soon. (AP)

Duty palls

Dhaka: About 700 guards at Dhaka central jail, Bangladesh's biggest prison, left 30,000 prisoners unguarded when they joined a two-hour national strike. No escapes were reported. (AP)

UK urges Algeria to let reactor be checked

By DAVID WATTS

BRITAIN called on Algeria yesterday to open its new nuclear plant to international inspection at the earliest possible opportunity.

The British government is concerned about the reactor being built with Chinese help at Ain Oussera, 100 miles south of Algiers. "We look to Algeria to abide by this undertaking and invite the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) as soon as possible" to inspect the plant, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"We also note Algeria's affirmation of a commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, and we urge her to formalise this commitment by acceding to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," the official stated.

According to the Vienna-based IAEA, the Algerians have approached Iraqi and Libyan scientists to help them in their quest for nuclear status, although both the Algerian and Chinese governments deny that there is any intention of using the plant for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

So far the international monitoring body has enjoyed good relations with the Algerian government and has been promised access to the new plant at the appropriate moment. But there is a probability that, after the second round of the general election later this month, Algeria will have a fundamentalist-dominated government. There are no guarantees that the present goodwill arrangement will then be continued.

It is believed that the new plant could be in a position to produce enough plutonium to make a primitive bomb by the late 1990s. Whether President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is assisting the Algerians through the supply of technology, fuel or personnel remains unclear.

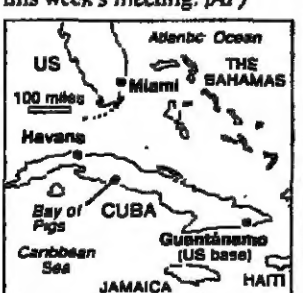


Castro: angry over Moscow's betrayal
Castro to tell all on 1962 crisis

Washington: President Castro plans to deliver on Thursday, for the first time, a detailed account of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, including the betrayal he felt when Soviet leaders ignored him at the decisive moment.

Dr Castro will make his presentation in Havana before a gathering of prominent Soviet, American and Cuban officials who took part in the event. Cuban officials described Dr Castro's plans to Americans involved in organising the conference.

In recognition of the intimate ties that developed between Moscow and Havana for more than two decades after the crisis, Dr Castro has generally muted his anger about the bystander role forced on him at the time by Khrushchev, the Soviet leader. But with Soviet disintegration, Dr Castro no longer feels so constrained, said Philip Brenner, an American professor, who will take part in this week's meeting. (AP)



Defiant songster bridges troubled waters

PAUL Simon, the American singer-composer whose Graceland record brought South African township music to a world audience in the mid-1980s, plans to ignore threats from black militant organisations and perform in Johannesburg on Saturday.

His tour, which will be the first by an international music star since the United Nations lifted its cultural ban on South Africa, has come under attack over the past week from the Pan Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organisation. Both are groups on the radical fringe of black politics with questionable support and neither voiced objections to Simon's visit when it was announced several months ago.

In a letter to Simon in New York, the Azanian movement said the time was not right for his "Born at the Right Time" tour. "Should you, however, insist on coming here, please be informed that you will be coming to a hostile climate and certainly not conducive for your performance." South African newspapers have reported threats of violence from the Azanian movement and smaller groups.

In a country starved of so much for so long it is perhaps understandable that the singer's impending arrival should encourage organisations on the fringe of show business to

Despite noises of radical protest, the ANC, Inkatha and Pretoria found a rare harmony in hailing Paul Simon's tour, write Charles Bremner from New York and Ray Kennedy from Johannesburg

try to get on the act. Both of these organisations boycotted the important constitutional meeting between the leading parties in South African politics, held in Johannesburg last month, which included the government, the ruling National party, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom party.

Their last-ditch attempt to stall Simon's visit is being viewed in South Africa as an totally inept political strategy that will hardly convince those it is supposed to influence. The government, ANC and Inkatha, in a rare show of unanimity, have said they approve of the tour.

Yesterday the offices of the organisers were besieged by fans seeking tickets. About 200,000 people are expected to turn up at the Ellis Park rugby stadium in Johannesburg where the concerts are to be held and yesterday Colonel Frans Malherbe, the chief police spokesman for the Johannesburg area, said the police had not yet decided on security measures.

The ANC required Simon to promise that he would hold

classes for young blacks while in the country. "The main thing is the majority of people want to see Paul," said Attie Van Wyk, the promoter of Simon's two-day concert in Johannesburg.

Simon was criticised by anti-apartheid activists when he travelled to South Africa in 1985 and recorded township musicians, using their work to give an original flavour to Graceland, a huge international hit. Critics said he exploited black musicians for his personal gain but Simon and his supporters argued that he brought celebrity to the South African genre, gave work to its musicians and heightened awareness of injustice there. Late last year, one of the township musicians, Headman Tshabalala of the Ladysmith Black Mambazo singers, a friend of Simon, was shot dead by a white security guard.

In his latest tour and associated record, launched last year, Simon mixes the sound of the townships with music from other African states and heavy drum playing from the Brazilian Amazon. For critics,



Graceland revisited: threats from radicals have failed to deter Paul Simon from making the tour

Simon's lyrics are too personal and introverted to carry the political message they would like to hear from his "world music". In a recent interview, Simon said the killing of his township friend had brought home the suffering of blacks there. "I am not thinking of the potential for violence but I know that anything can happen," he told British reporters.

● Johannesburg: More than half of an estimated 30,000 white conscripts due to report this week for a year's full-time

national service in the South African armed forces are expected to ignore their call-up, it was claimed yesterday.

In response to the claim by the End Conscription Campaign, the defence ministry admitted for the first time that racially-based conscription is an anomaly since the repeal last year of the Population Registration Act. All white youths young men from the age of 18 are required to do a year's full-time national service, most of them in the

Moscow

Thin line of hope links two armies

Moscow trouble-stirrers added to Georgia's woes

THE tribulations of Georgia and its fugitive president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, have been reported with great prominence on Moscow television for the benefit of the rest of the former Soviet Union.

Before the resignation of President Gorbachev and the dissolution of the union, pictures of tanks on Tbilisi streets, gun-running, youths and injured civilians had a message: this will be your fate, too, unless you preserve the union. That Georgia continued to occupy so large a part of news coverage and comment, even after the red flag was lowered over the Kremlin, probably reflected both the drama of events in Tbilisi and editorial inertia. It did not reflect any concern that Georgia's absence damaged the new Commonwealth of Independent States, or Russian popular interest in Georgia or the Georgians.

Tucked away in the mountainous southwest of the former Soviet Union, with a population of flamboyant businessmen, stylish women and an incomprehensible alphabet, Georgia's most famous son is probably Stalin. It

As bemused Russians coolly observe the Georgian democrats' resort to violence against their freely elected president, Mary Dejevsky looks at the long-term significance of events in Tbilisi

is regarded by the northern Slavs with something of the combined contempt and amusement that northern Europeans reserve for parts of the Mediterranean. Photographs of urban guerrillas in Georgia did not translate into Russian reality and triggered no fear, and only a little wonder.

Any suggestion that the Georgian "virus" might spread beyond the Caucasus therefore seems improbable. The whole region is inherently unstable, but in its own way. There is a dense patchwork of ethnic groups with competing territorial claims, some of them age-old, some stemming from Stalin's re-drawing of borders.

Once the threat of force against nationalist opposition to Soviet rule receded, Georgia — like many other republics — started to assert itself against the centre, and the resurgence of Georgian na-

tionalism was matched by the resurgence of smaller ethnic groups. Many suspected, however, that the bitter opposition to Mr Gamsakhurdia, who campaigned for election on a platform of national revival, reflected not only the minorities' fear of Georgian dominance, but intervention from circles in Moscow which wanted to make trouble for the emerging republics.

Georgia was a particularly easy victim for Moscow, because it is geographically small and the minority groups are in self-contained clusters around the periphery. Now that the old centre no longer exists, Georgia has been left to its own devices. No one is inviting it to join the new commonwealth; no one has sent troops, except possibly the North Caucasian Chechens, to support either side or to sort out the mess. The nearest any Western country has come to interven-

KEY DATES IN GAMSAXHURDIA'S REIGN

Nov 14, 1990: Zviad Gamsakhurdia, pro-independence coalition leader and former dissident, elected president of parliament.
Jan 30, 1991: Parliament votes to set up a national guard to replace conscription to the Soviet Army.
Apr 9: Gamsakhurdia elected president of republic.
May 28: Prime minister Tengiz Sigua and several members of the government resign. Sigua and Tengiz Kitovani, national guard commander, join opposition.
Sept 2: Loyalist troops fire on 2,000 demonstrators.
Oct 7: After series of clashes in which ten people killed, parliament ratifies state of emergency.
Dec 22: Opponents led by Kitovani besiege parliament.
Dec 31, 1991: Military opposition council says it is taking power and forms provisional government.
Jan 3: Four Gamsakhurdia supporters killed at rally.
Jan 6: Gamsakhurdia flees parliament where he was holed up for three weeks.

tion is to exempt Georgia from the diplomatic recognition accorded to other republics.

Now, the only way in which this patchwork of conflicts and violence impinges on Russia proper is in the spreading seizure of weapons and the flourishing illegal arms trade. So far, however, the weapons are being used for one purpose only: for one ethnic group to fight another ethnic group in the Caucasus. The two-week conflict in Tbilisi, however, had little direct relation to the various

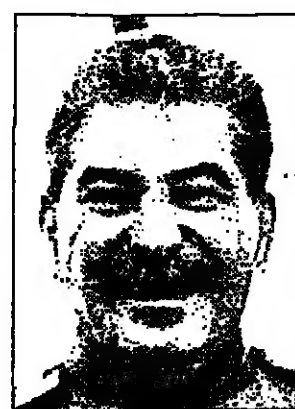
ethnic conflicts. It was a purely political conflict, and personal to the extent that the removal of Mr Gamsakhurdia was the single aim. The politics of the struggle was why commentators from the central media based in Moscow tried so hard to draw public attention to it, but with signal failure.

Well before the armed conflict in Tbilisi began, a number of Russian intellectuals had aligned themselves with the anti-Gamsakhurdia opposition. Their concern was that the president and his

government were ignoring elementary rights, not only the rights of minorities, but free speech and freedom of the press as well.

The man who had been elected by 85 per cent of the population, a former dissident with ostensibly unimpeachable democratic credentials, found himself accused of dictatorship and increasingly opposed by a highly articulate minority. This minority, most of whom had earlier campaigned for Mr Gamsakhurdia's election, had excellent contacts in Moscow and abroad and their views dominated the Moscow media.

By now, the truth has become so clouded by accusations, and later by war, as to be almost invisible. But a measure of the anti-Gamsakhurdia movement resembled the smear campaign conducted by the KGB against Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, until he was unchallengingly elected. There were the same accusations of demagoguery, of heavy-handedness, of ignoring public opinion, the same attempts to provoke violence and so demonstrate the elect-



Stalin: Georgia's best known claim to fame

ed leader's incapacity to govern. Violence proved easier to foment in the Caucasus than in Moscow or the Baltic area. Even so, the first campaign of violence against President Gamsakhurdia last autumn failed. The winter campaign has succeeded.

With the Moscow intelligentsia and the democratically inclined Russian press disposed against President Gamsakhurdia, commentary has concentrated on the difficulty of ousting dictators. Few have chosen to ask in detail what the opposition, fighting

under the banner of "democracy", thought it was doing in sending tanks and machine-guns against the elected president rather than working through the elected parliament. Few have even examined in detail the charges against Mr Gamsakhurdia that branded him a tyrant — although they included his aversion to hostile reporting.

Inside Georgia, President Gamsakhurdia's popularity, seven months after his election, was not put to the test. If it had been tested after the eruption of violence in Tbilisi, the prevailing chaos would doubtless have lost him support, but maybe not as much as the opposition believed.

Georgia's "democrats" must now prove their credentials. But outside Georgia, too, the democrats should examine their consciences. Their unreflexive acclaim of an opposition which so quickly resorted to violence does not bode well for democracy elsewhere in the former Soviet Union. This, perhaps, is the only transferable lesson to emerge from Georgia's unhappy experience.

Gamsakhurdia flees, page 1

Yugoslav ceasefire

Thin line of hope links two armies

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MIRKOVI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ON THE eve of the Orthodox Christmas yesterday, a thin line of grey wire laid across the most exposed and dangerous stretch of front line signified the first fragile bridge of trust between the warring sides in Yugoslavia on the third day of the latest ceasefire.

The installation of a single field telephone link between the army and the Croatian commands came after two hours of strained talks between the two parties in the first face-to-face talks held on the battlefield between opposing commanders. Serb irregulars looked on distrustfully and soldiers disconsolately licked a punctured football while their seniors talked.

The consultation, brokered by the European Community monitors, was held on a railway level crossing in the early silent strip of no man's land between Mirko, controlled

by the federal army and Serbian irregulars, and Vinkovci, the battered Croatian stronghold. Their respective snipers looked on from hidden positions.

Three senior army representatives threaded their way through the barricades past the yellow sign announcing Vinkovci, now scored through and ornamented with the subtitle "Serbia", to meet their opposite numbers approaching gingerly from Vinkovci. Both nervously negotiated the mine, while six EC observers, three approaching from each side, were on hand to preserve the strict symmetry of the event.

Meetings between the two sides are now supposed to take place every day. Today the army is due to venture into Croatian territory to the west of the National Guard in Vinkovci.

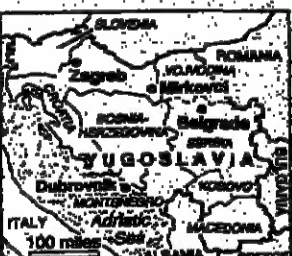
The success of the ceasefire, a precondition for the dispatch of UN troops to the region, is particularly difficult to sustain here on the eastern Slavonian frontline, which has seen some of the bitterest fighting because of the concentration of forces.

Yesterday's rapprochement began against a background of unexplained machine-gun fire and the occasional shell crumpling to earth in the fields around. But there was also a more inspiring natural omen: a burst of sun in the grey sky as the two groups approached. They huddled together to discuss previous violations and methods of future liaison and agreed code names for their telephone relationship: "Bravo" for the army, "Hotel" for the Croatians.

The field telephone link was made by Zvonko Buzbar, on the Croatian side, and Nedeljko Spiric, for the army who, it emerged, had both been members of the Slavonian Athletics Club in Osijek in the days before Slavonia was turned into a battleground.

But as the parties left the meeting yesterday, neither side seemed convinced that the guns would stay silent for long.

Michael Evans, page 12



UN team ready for Croatia

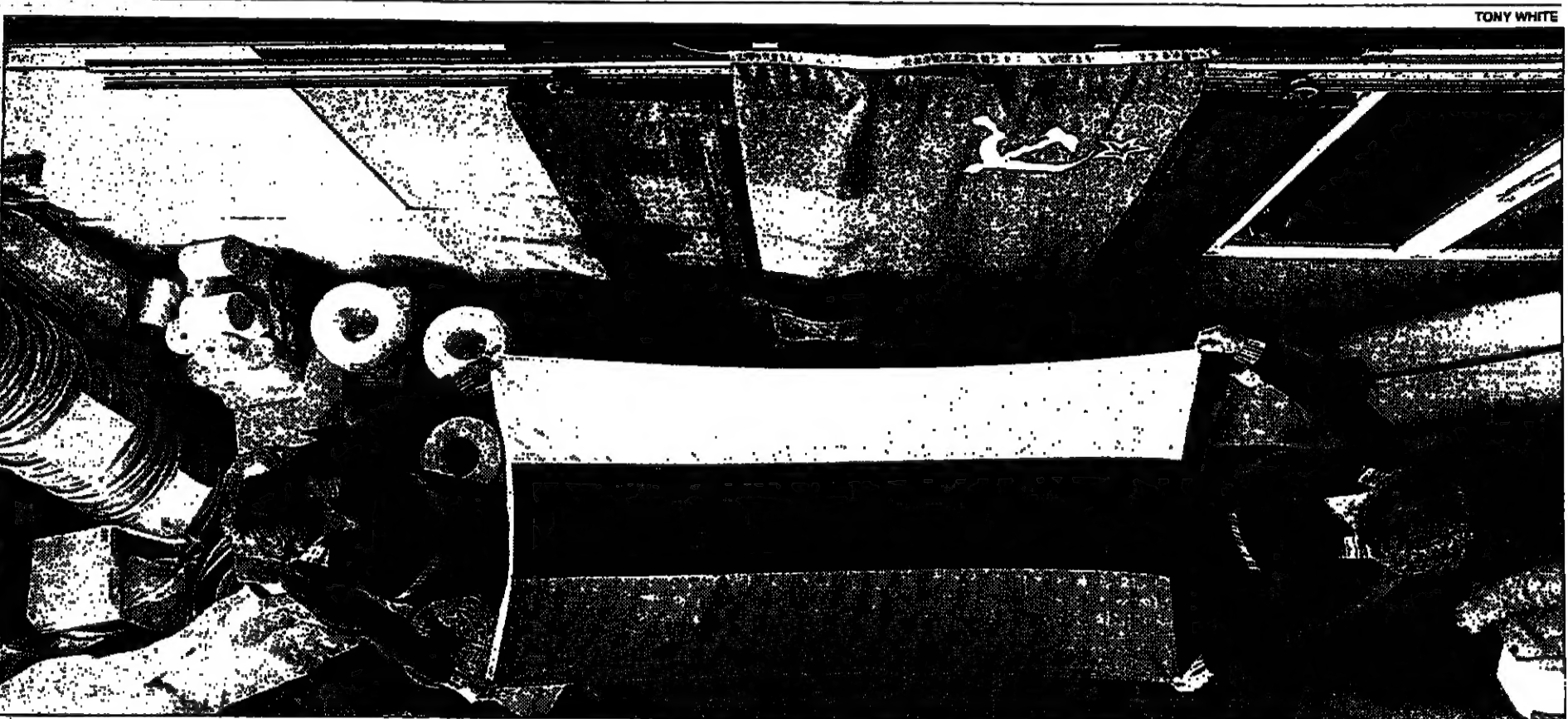
FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

A TEAM of 50 military observers is expected to take up positions in Croatian battle zones within a few days as a first step towards deployment of a full-scale United Nations force, UN officials said yesterday.

The security council was due to approve the observer team after hearing a report from Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, on a peacekeeping plan which would eventually send a 10,000-strong force into three Serb-controlled zones of Croatia. The decision will be taken only after the warring sides abide by last Friday's ceasefire and after civilian leaders give their consent.

While Mr Boutros Ghali and Cyrus Vance, his mediator, are hopeful that this 15th ceasefire will hold, they and the security council are adamant that UN troops should not be sent as long as there is a chance they will meet armed opposition.

Under the plan, which draws on a UN pact reached in Geneva on November 28, some 8,000 lightly armed motorised infantrymen will establish protected areas in demilitarised zones, assisted by 500 police observers and civilian experts. France yesterday offered to provide 4,000 troops for the UN force. Mr Vance said that he had asked that about 200 EC observers already in Yugoslavia be deployed to observe the new truce.



Showing the flag: assistants at the Essex manufacturer, Piggott Brothers, inspecting the white, blue and red flag of Russia. The Soviet flag with the hammer and sickle will be packed away. The company, established in 1780 and based in Stanford Rivers, is making the flags for British firms welcoming Russian businessmen

French clergy shielded man charged with war crimes

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE man alleged to be one of France's most notorious war criminals evaded justice for years with the help of an elaborate network involving monks, priests and cardinals, an investigation by the country's Roman Catholic hierarchy has concluded.

In a 400-page report delivered yesterday, the commission of eight historians appointed to examine the case of Paul Touvier, former leader of the pro-Nazi milice in Lyons, said that he was sheltered on church property, financed from official funds, and supported in an attempt to win a pardon by clerical sympathisers around the country.

Arrested in May 1989 at a Nice prison run by adherents of the ultra-traditional wing of the church, M. Touvier is now awaiting trial on charges of crimes against humanity. According to some reports, he is suffering from cancer. Although it was known that he had enjoyed the protection of various religious figures for more than four decades, the commission has established beyond doubt the extent to which senior churchmen aided and abetted him.

In doing so, the report focuses attention once more on



Touvier: kept in hiding on church property

the sensitive issue of the French hierarchy's conduct during the Vichy era. At one remove, it could also reopen the wider, and equally painful, debate about the Catholic church's attitude to the Holocaust.

As the commission unflinchingly notes, some of M. Touvier's defenders in France "saw him as being the victim of a conspiracy by the eternal enemies of the true faith" — Jews very much included. Although the report argues that the church as a body was not itself directly implicated, there is no attempt to whitewash the senior figures who

were willingly involved. Among those singled out is the late Charles Duquaire, who served as secretary to the pro-Vichy Archbishop of Lyons, Cardinal Pierre-Marie Gerlier, and his successor, Cardinal Jean Villot. Duquaire appears to have been a key figure in shielding M. Touvier. "He adopted Touvier and his family, becoming his protector, his investigator, his strategist," the commission said.

Since Cardinal Villot went on to become secretary of state under Pope Paul VI in 1969, it is possible that Duquaire might have sought to influence events in the Vatican. French clerics are known to have been behind the campaign of petitions that secured an official pardon for M. Touvier in 1971 (it was subsequently rescinded and he went into hiding again).

The sympathy for M. Touvier, whose involvement with Klaus Barbie's reign of terror in Lyons is amply documented, was most deeply felt in what have become known as fundamentalist Catholic circles. The late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre was patron of the priory where M. Touvier had lived for years before being caught.

Mauroy quits as Socialists regroup

BY PHILIP JACOBSON

A LAST-DITCH effort to revive the fortunes of France's ailing Socialist government will begin today with the resignation of Pierre Mauroy, the party's secretary.

A number of cabinet changes are also being considered by Edith Cresson as the prime minister strives to improve her dismal standing in the opinion polls during the run-up to important regional elections in March. The departure of M. Mauroy, a former prime minister and at 63, a veteran of Socialist party infighting, was not entirely unexpected following discreet leaks to the press last week.

During his three years in the hot seat, he has found it increasingly difficult to hold the party together, most recently as several factions began manoeuvring for the eventual succession to President Mitterrand in 1995.

Although insiders say that M. Mauroy is utterly worn out and wishes to avoid being made a scapegoat for the widely anticipated drubbing in the regional elections, the presidential hand can be seen behind his decision to stand down. By all accounts, the new year finds M. Mitterrand in combative form, apparently undaunted by his

popularity with the voters and raring to go.

In the words of Jack Lang, the president's effervescent spokesman, juggling his metaphors: "The president has made it clear that he refuses to sit back and be shorn like a sheep and that he wants to put a tiger in the tank." With Mme Cresson's office weighing in to report that "commando" action could be expected soon, the party is intent on putting the misery of her first nine months in office behind it.

M. Mauroy's resignation reflects the uneasy awareness that getting the party back on the rails swiftly provides the only chance — and a slim one at that — of staving off disaster in the 1993 parliamentary elections. Firmly identified with the old guard of "popular socialism", whose strongest roots were in his northern fiefdom around Lille, M. Mauroy was ambushed by rival groupings at the party's special congress last month.

The rejection of his proposal to introduce a form of proportional representation as a damage limitation exercise for the coming elections effectively signalled the end of his influence on policy.

Soldiers leave the Ukraine

KIEV: The first 1,000 Russian military men who declined to take the Ukraine oath of allegiance yesterday flew back to St Petersburg, Moscow and Nizhni Novgorod after an honourable discharge from barracks across Ukraine.

Almost two hundred officers and men from Russia, plus smaller numbers from the central Asian republics, bade farewell to their unit at the Florivski barracks in Ukraine's capital, at a brief ceremony devoid of the fanfare that greeted the initial Ukrainian swearing in of its national guard at the weekend. Their departure is likely to be the first of many as commonwealth forces, and Ukraine's national guard and army take shape.

Moving west

Bonn: New figures show that 200,000 people left east for west Germany in 1991 in search of work and better living standards. Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, admitted that the former victims of communism had good reason to be dissatisfied.

Current affair

Sofia: Ukraine has restored some electric power supplies to Bulgaria in response to a top-level appeal. Bulgarian officials said. Supplies had stopped when a temporary barrier deal between the former Moscow satellites ended on New Year's day. (Reuters)

Greek fears

Athens: Greece has shelved plans to reduce military service because of instability in the Balkans, Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, told a conservative party conference. He said that the unrest could last for years. (Reuters)

Fire escape

Sainte Maxime, France: A burglar spent 14 hours stuck in a chimney, terrified that the owners of the house in this French Riviera town might light a fire and roast him alive. Firemen freed the man after the owners raised the alarm. (Reuters)

German bile rises over 'liver-sausage' English speakers

Britons are under fire for resisting calls to put German on an equal footing with French and English in Europe. Ian Murray writes from Bonn

WE British are off our heads, as any reader of *Bild*'s front page could read yesterday. We are just playing the "betleidigte Leberwurst" ("offended liver sausage").

The mass-circulation daily was outraged to find that counterparts in Britain had likened Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, to Hitler "because at last German could become an equally entitled official language of the EC alongside English and French".

Bild, which inspired the charge to unification with whole editions printed in the red, gold and black national colours, is now urging the chancellor to fight for German to become the official language of the Europe-

an Community. "Remain firm, chancellor!" exhorted the front page headline. The idea was far from being "rubbish", the paper said, as a quarter of all west Europeans already speak German, making it the most widely-used language on the continent. German linguistic dominance in the EC would grow with enlargement since the 100 million Europeans who speak the language include Austrians, Swiss, and Liechtensteiners.

Not just numbers, but, as *Bild* sees it, fair play is involved. "We pay 28 per cent of the EC budget on our own, yet German plays no part in the EC bureaucracy. EC papers are printed only in French and English, German is not used at conferences — a disadvantage for our economy. When it comes to invitations to tender, we often have to wait weeks for an official translation — so the English and French have a better opportunity." The news-



Strong language: *Bild* exhorts Helmut Kohl to push for German to be an official EC tongue

paper adds ruefully: "How nice that at least they all want our mark."

By contrast, the more sober *General-Anzeiger* warns the chancellor against pressing for German-language equality. Britain has never worried

about the fact that English is not the first, merely the second language of the Community, the paper points out. "Even the former prime minister, Margaret Thatcher never — so far as is known — intervened because of discrimination."

The reason was that Britain realised that the importance of English in the world would automatically give it precedence in the Community.

Yesterday the chancellor was keeping discreetly silent about all the fuss, which began with a report last week that Herr Kohl had written to Jacques Delors, president of the EC commission, about upgrading German. There was no such letter, the official spokesman said. However, as a Bundestag report from last September makes plain, the government "will demand at every level" that German be placed on an equal footing with French and English as an official EC language.

CINEMA

Keep it cheap and in the family

In its struggle against recession, Hollywood is slashing budgets and turning its back on sex. David Robinson reports

Hollywood is an anxious place as it faces 1992. Things have changed; but nobody yet quite knows what direction the future will take, or how it will affect the films we see. Recession is biting hard. For the first time in 15 years, the annual box-office attendance in America has slipped below one billion.

Companies that seemed impregnable are tumbling. Orion, with two of the biggest films of 1991 — *Dances With Wolves* and *The Silence of the Lambs* — to its credit, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Carolco may follow suit, following massive layoffs and dramatic stock collapse. Although Carolco's *Terminator 2* was the biggest box-office hit of the year, the film's \$100m (£54 million) production budget appears to have over-extended the company.

MGM-Pathé suffered a year of turmoil in 1991, following its adventures with *Signor Parretti*, the Italian waiter-turned-finance magnate who was removed as its head. Parretti is currently in jail in Italy, facing tax evasion charges. As other companies struggle, the only Hollywood major currently expanding its operations is the Japanese-owned Sony Entertainment Corporation, which is refurbishing the former MGM lot in Culver City for its Columbia and TriStar divisions.

Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, refuses to be dispirited by all this. He points out that the fall in domestic attendances goes with a massive rise in the home video market. Moreover, Hollywood's foreign market continues to grow. Today 41 per cent of the industry's revenues come from abroad, compared with 23 per cent 12 years ago.

"People are not satisfied with the dreary plausibilities of everyday living. They want to be entertained. Which is why American movies are wanted and watched everywhere on this weary, wracked planet. That's not a fancy, it's a fact."

Valenti feels that alarm at falling box office and rising costs is a positive lesson to the industry. "In my opinion this adversity may be

the best thing that has happened to us in a long time. We have become flabby. We have made pictures that shouldn't have been made because we thought that when we beckoned, they would come, as they say in *Field of Dreams*."

"We allowed our kinship with audiences to grow slack. We offered them less than we are capable of, and not as much as they deserve. When competition for funding grows tense and the struggle for an audience's favour tightens, the creative curve inevitably ascends."

Hollywood is watching with particular anxiety the fortunes of *Hook*, which opened just before Christmas. The film and its begetter, Steven Spielberg, exemplify the excesses of the Eighties. A prodigal lavishing of sets and special effects on a small fantasy update of *Peter Pan*, *Hook* is believed to have cost not less than \$80m. To recoup this will involve gross box office takings of at least \$250m. First predictions make this seem unlikely. *Variety* wrote: "*Hook*, in all its opulence and frenzy, may be singled out, not necessarily on its merits as a movie, but as a metaphor for a time that is no more."

'Hook and its begetter, Spielberg, exemplify the excesses of the Eighties'

As Hollywood adjusts to a changing economy, the watchword is "more is less". Disney boasts that the cost of its pictures has been running 20 per cent below last year's levels.

The 150 films the major distributors will release during 1992 are estimated at average budgets of \$19.5m, compared with \$19.8m in 1990. Fewer films in future are likely to escalate up to and above the \$40m mark.

Stars are taking salary cuts. The handful of box-office infallibles such as Julia Roberts, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner can still name their price (Schwarzenegger's remuneration for *Terminator 2* included a 1982 Gulfstream jet and Carolco is paying Michael Douglas \$15m to star in *Basic Instinct*). Other stars, however, are finding their fees slashed by as much as 50 or 75 per cent. Writers are facing similar cuts.

For years Hollywood has narrowed its sights to the teen and



Extravagantly overloaded fantasy? Dustin Hoffman as Hook and Robin Williams as Peter Pan in Steven Spielberg's *Hook*

twenties market. Recent major successes such as *Home Alone* and *Beauty and the Beast*, however, have managed to provide fun for the juvenile audience at the same time as entertainment for the more mature spectator.

In consequence there is a widespread feeling that survival in the next decade could be a matter of creating wholesome, family-oriented entertainment. In earnest of this, Warners is planning a new Warner Bros Family Films Division, while Universal, Paramount, TriStar and Columbia are said to be looking in the same direction.

"Everyone is waking up to the same thing at the same time," says one Hollywood executive. "Maybe because all the executives are baby boomers who suddenly understand family entertainment because they

have families, or maybe they just understand that there is a real return to family entertainment and families in general."

In this new climate the musical, after years of apparent extinction, is back in a big way. The impetus has been the enormous success of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast* — not to speak of the \$100m which the company should earn from the video release of the 50-year-old *Fantasia*. Disney's 1992 animated musical will be *Aladdin*, while *Fantasia Continued*, is already in the works.

Disney is also returning to live-action musicals. The company's 1992 releases will include *Swing Kids*, the story of a band of jazz-obsessed youngsters in pre-war Nazi Germany; and *Newsies*, about an 1895 newsboys' strike against

the publishing empires of Pulitzer and Hearst.

Every studio, it seems, has musical projects. Warners is still looking for a director for *Les Misérables*. Columbia is preparing *Into the Woods*, TriStar a musical life of Lotte Lenya, to star Bette Midler. Universal plans two animated musicals: *Cats* and *We're Back*, which is about dinosaurs.

Sex is out of fashion. Ironically the new NC-17 rating which in theory would permit more adult subjects has coincided with a period of general conservatism, together with an AIDS-related evasion of sexuality. Peter Rainer, in the *Los Angeles Times*, points out that it was no coincidence that the hero of the very successful sex, lies and videotape was an impotent voyeur.

"In most of the new films there's often so little going on between men and women on any level that when sex happens, it's weirdly abstract." Sexuality, he points out, has moved from movies to pop videos and magazine advertising.

The erotic attraction of violence, however, is likely to survive in the new era. Paul Verhoeven, director of *Robocop*, is currently making the aforementioned *Basic Instinct*, which is a sexual murder mystery. In a recent debate on screen violence he said, "Art is a reflection of the world. If the world is horrible, the reflection in the mirror is horrible. Every human being has a nasty, shadowy side."

For the moment, though — pace Verhoeven — it seems that Hollywood might see economic advantage in family fare and the nicer side of humanity.

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Mixed doubles

Schubert: Sonata in A, Rondo, Fantasy, Kremer, Afanassiev, DG 431 654-2
Chopin: Scherzos, Barceuse, Barcarolle, Pollini, DG 431 623-2

HERE are two doses of double astonishment, the kind that comes when extraordinary skill works away at reawakening music, so that all the busy brilliance one hears is functioning in a breathtaking feat of artistic excavation. Gidon Kremer and Valery Afanassiev have already done that for the Brahms violin sonatas; in the last three of Schubert's works for violin and piano, as before, the effect is to make the music seem odder and more various.

There is not much room for that in the A major Sonata of 1817, but the two pieces of a decade later, the B minor Rondo and the C major Fantasy, become masterpieces of the musical Gothic. A lot of the characterisation comes from Afanassiev: he has a leaning towards sublimated kitsch. The opening of the fantasy has a beautiful, quiet rolling tremolando that retrieves magic for the gesture while recalling its debasement at the hands of cinema pianists. Kremer's entry here, and again when the material is repeated after an allegretto and a set of song variations, is marvellously stealthy; he is also appropriately alert and mercurial in music that comes from the age of Paganini (Schubert was actually writing for a young Bohemian player, Josef Slavik).

Schubert's violinist also had an association with Chopin, whose four scherzos are the main stuff of Maurizio Pollini's latest record. This is typical Pollini: "dazzling", one might call it, if that did not suggest a showiness quite alien to this musician. Where much of the outer music in the first scherzo goes at almost unbelievable speed, the effect is jagged, manic, violently lit — certainly not a spinning of mere brilliance. And Pollini can be just as much on the edge in the slower music: in the intensity of his phrasing, or the tension he reveals between rival contrapuntal lines, or the meaning of what might have passed for a conventional accompanying figure.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Mersey money

THE campaign to refurbish Liverpool's art deco Philharmonic Hall, home of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, received a big boost yesterday. Michael Portillo, the minister for Inner cities, announced a £3 million "urban programme grant", conditional upon the orchestra raising a matching £3 million from private donations in the next three months.

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daunting as it appears, because the appeal fund, launched last January, already stands at £2.18 million, thanks largely to a £1 million donation from the charitable foundation set up by the Littlewoods pools heir, Peter Moores. Now the orchestra (the only one in the country to manage its own hall) wants to increase the appeal target to £9 million to allow the acoustics to be improved.

Last chance ...

FOR its first venture into "arena opera" the Royal Opera revived Andrei Serban's fittingly spectacular 1984 production of Puccini's *Turandot*, which is fanned admirably to 60 Wembley Arena (081-900 1919). Strongly cast, well played; only the amplification leaves room for doubt. Final performance tonight at 7.30pm.

GALLERIES: EDINBURGH

Scrubland and adobe

Andrew Gibbon
Williams reviews a show of American art, on a visit from Texas to Scotland

Clemenceau observed that America missed out on civilisation, progressing directly from barbarism to degeneration. Any first-time European visitor prejudiced by his remark is assured of a humbling experience. Apart from museums bulging with the imported heritage of the old world, there is the indigenous product: not all of it weak and derivative.

Texas is not the first place one might expect a distinctive native school of paintings to have developed. Yet it was in the Southwest — not just in the Lone Star State but even more impressively in neighbouring New Mexico — that, between the wars, a modern realist style took root and flourished.

Over the next 30 years a group of artists, many of them women, produced a wealth of paintings and graphic work which has the same quintessentially American feel about it as the music of Aaron Copland. Notwithstanding the New York phenomenon of abstract expressionism, it is arguably the most valid visual manifestation of 20th century America's innate artistic sensibility.

Unfortunately for members of groups such as the Texas

Printmakers, one-time surrealist Georgia O'Keeffe chose to live near that attractive town and magnet for artists: Santa Fe. Her reputation was so effectively promoted over the years that less demonstrative talents elsewhere in the region were obliged to take a back seat.

Texas Realism, an intense little show from Dallas's Southern Methodist University organised under the auspices of the John Judkyn Memorial in Bath, puts a choice selection of them up front. In doing so, it demonstrates a paradox: awe-inspiring environments are often better served by self-effacing artists than by great egos.

For half a century until his death in 1989, the artist Jerry Bywaters, a professor at the university, diligently assembled this unique collection. Conveniently, it is within Bywaters's own work that the salient features of the school are most comprehensively ex-

emplified. In a compelling oil he painted in 1939 and called *Mountains Meet The Plains*, almost tangible shafts of light stream through clouds gathering atop a dramatically undulating horizon; below, a massive typographic is defined in vivid chiaroscuro. He describes rocky outcrops and cacti with the crisp, incisive technique of the Italian Quattrocento, and — with a limited palette of earthen hues leavened by the occasional dash of vibrant colour — succeeds in invoking the spirit of the place.

Bywaters is a discovery, but he fails to make as much of the mysterious atmosphere of rural Texas as he might. For that reward one must turn to the even more striking, almost early Renaissance vision of William Lester. By the introduction of some dozing apostles, his lithograph *Rock and Cedar* might easily be converted into a depiction of Christ's agony, echoing Mantegna. Accentuating anthropomorphic qualities in natural forms, Lester frequently approximates to English artists



Unrestrained and uncomfortably close to kitsch: Otis Dozier's *Jack Rabbits*, 1935

who were playing the same game during this period. Not all these artists refrained from populating their scenes. Perhaps the best known visitor, Missouri-born Thomas Hart Benton, seizes upon the relationship between cowboy and herd, delighting in the asymmetrical shapes of buckled stetson, rickety barn or wind-driven water pump and infusing his subjects with macho excitement. An even less restrained trespasser on territory con-

quered earlier by the doyen of Wild West artists, Frederic Remington, is Otis Dozier. As with Remington, however, Dozier arrives at artistic solutions close to kitsch.

Most of the prints in this exhibition modestly project an impression of Texas which is untroubled, contented and industrious. Perhaps then, in view of the show's source and motive, it is a shame that the most gripping items derive their power from the land of the chilli and puebio.

Stella LaMond and Alexandre Hogue both focus on that most picturesque feature of New Mexican adobe architecture. It seems that this state's blend of Indian and Spanish cultures stimulated these artists as effectively as it seduced that other painter-immigrant, D.H. Lawrence.

● Texas Realism from the Southern Methodist University Art Collection, Dallas, to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031-556 8921), until February 2.

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Resisting the fanatics

Disregard for the law must be punished, even if it prolongs militancy, says Janet Daley

With the unanimous support of his outlandish self-appointed Muslim "parliament", Dr Kalim Siddiqui went on record last week as advising Muslims in Britain to break any law which they felt to be hostile to their interests. Since Dr Siddiqui is relentless in his insistence that the death sentence on Salman Rushdie is still binding on devout Muslims, this presumably includes the law against incitement to murder. Dr Siddiqui was exultant at the time of the Rushdie furore, that although his remarks were examined by the Office of Public Prosecutions, no grounds were found for a criminal charge against him. Similarly, in spite of last weekend's highly publicised act of unrepentant bravado, no charges of any kind have been brought against anyone.

Since the Beirut hostages are now free, the explanation for this must be entirely to do with the sensitive state of British race relations. Presumably the apology for failing to pursue people who incite to crime would go something like this: prosecution of Muslim spokesmen could be expected to inflame people already defensive about their position in this country. Better to let this nine-day wonder burn itself out than to create martyrs who would prolong the fashion for militancy.

There is no point in pretending that there is an easy answer to this. The most difficult task any liberal democracy can face is defending itself against illiberalism, particularly the well-organised, manipulative kind which makes use of the very openness of a host society to further its totalitarian intentions. Organisations and countries priding themselves on open access and freedom of expression are always prey to bullying cults and power-mad cabals. However, this attempt to distort the character of the Muslim community and represent it as something that most of its members intensely dislike is different from some other famous cases of democracy being subverted by militants.

The Muslim "parliament" has set itself up in deliberate opposition to the rules, declaring itself opposed to some of our most fundamental freedoms, such as that of an author to publish his thoughts, or a woman to be educated. We do not have to resort to any tortuous reinterpretation of our own constitution to declare this diatribe of agitators beyond the pale. All we have to do is enforce the law. This is a problem not in principle but in practice.

To justify the commitment of his "parliament" to flouting the rule of law, Dr Siddiqui has stated that Western democracy is simply a form of mob rule which runs roughshod over the interests of minorities. When Plato used this argument, it had some force against a simplistic kind of democracy in which majority voting by all eligible citizens would settle any issue. In modern political life, dominated as it is by interest groups, it is absurd to claim that a closely knit and articulate group with forceful leaders cannot make its influence legitimately felt. If particular demands — for separatist Muslim schooling for example — are not being met, it is because their intentions are seen as inimical to social attitudes which most people in this country accept.

Home Office experts, tip-toeing around the problem and hoping it will die a natural death, are probably content with the condemnation and contempt which have rained down upon this jumped-up "governing" body from religious and secular Muslim spokesmen. That Dr Siddiqui himself found it necessary yesterday to deny that he had called for law-breaking must have been a great comfort. What is overlooked is the damage which may be done to the restrained and decent Islamic majority in Britain. Failure to take such provocation seriously compounds racist resentment and insults the Muslim population with its dismissiveness.

The home secretary is clearly vividly aware of the danger that legal pressure on Dr Siddiqui would cause even reluctant Muslim leaders to support him. But the risk is worth taking. Kenneth Baker should sound out the largest possible number of Muslim religious authorities and community leaders to explain his position in advance, and then bring the full force of the law down on Dr Siddiqui and his fundamentalist rabble-rousers. This might just draw the Muslim population out of the ghetto of ethnic separatism and into full participation in political debate.

Polls say voters are ready to pay more tax, but self-interest wins out in the end, argues Ivor Crewe

A bribe that few can resist

	Post-budget rating of Chancellor (%)	Percentage swing to government after 1 month	Percentage swing to government after 2 months
1955 (Butler)	57	0	n/a
1959 (Heathcote-Amory)	58	0	+0.5
1964 (Maudling)	47	+1	+1.5
1970 (Jenkins)	51	+5	+6.5
1983 (Howe)	51	+1.5	+0.5
1987 (Lawson)	49	+1.5	+1.5

On past evidence, moreover, electioneering Budgets fall flat (see table). In 1955, Rab Butler took 6d (2.5p) off income tax, but the polls did not move. In 1959, Heathcote Amory's tax reductions were followed by a mere 0.5 per cent swing to the government. Voters were similarly ungrateful when Sir Geoffrey Howe granted above-inflation tax allowances and social security payments in 1983. In 1987, Nigel Lawson reduced standard income tax from 27p to 25p. Again the public response was less than enthusiastic: two-thirds approved, but people were evenly divided over whether it would

help to expand the economy, bring about prosperity or reduce inflation, and were downright sceptical about whether it would "make it easier for people like [themselves] to manage".

The only pre-election Budget to produce a substantial swing to the government was the studiously non-electioneering (and monetarist) Budget of Roy Jenkins in 1970. The headlines lauded Jenkins' "responsibility", he set the popularity record for a Chancellor (which still stands), and there was a 5 per cent swing to the Labour government the following month.

The tax-cut lobby replies: so much the worse for polls. Lab-

our went on to lose the 1970 election, while the Conservatives went on to win in 1955, 1959, 1983 and 1987. The electioneering budgets of the 1950s and 1980s did not give the government a bonanza of votes, but the government did not actually lose support. And there is no known instance of a commitment to restore taxes gaining votes. On questions about tax, voters deceive the pollsters because they deceive themselves. In the secrecy of the polling booth, the wavering voter will place self-interest before compassion, and will opt for the reality of a tax cut before the promise of better services.

There is some evidence to support the cynics. The BBC/Gallup election survey in 1987 found an overwhelming 84 to 11 per cent majority in favour of extending services. But only 35 per cent of the respondents were in favour of restoring Mr Lawson's 2p cut, and the Tories were handsomely re-elected. Indeed, the last-

minute dip in Labour support during the 1987 campaign was almost certainly due to government-orchestrated fears about Labour's tax plans. Many more voters pay taxes than go to hospital, send children to schools or draw social security benefits. In the current economic climate, altruism might be in even shorter supply.

But it is not simply a matter of selfishness or hypocrisy. A tax cut is real: better services are merely an aspiration. A party leader would not promise to raise taxes unless he meant it, but he might promise better services without achieving them.

So is the government's dilemma actually difficult? The best of all worlds — cutting taxes, looking responsible and embarrassing Labour — may be possible. If Norman Lamont is really cunning he will steal Labour's idea (now shelved) of introducing a 15 per cent tax rate for the lower income bands. That would boost the "feel good" factor, symbolise John Major's softer, classless brand of Conservatism, and dish Labour.

The author is professor of government at Essex University.

Michael Evans outlines some of the dangers that UN forces may face in divided Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is about to be added to the list of peacekeeping operations undertaken by the United Nations. Ever since West European governments demonstrated their reluctance to send troops to separate the Croats from the Serbs, there has been a feeling that the blue berets would inevitably have to be deployed. Intervention by the United Nations is now the only hope for peace.

The first difficulty a UN force would face is the lack of a single, clearly defined "buffer" zone across the country, as there is for example in Cyprus. This means the military plan will have to be based on the concept of "link blocs", consisting of several demilitarised zones located in key areas. The hope is that demilitarisation will then spread across the country. Airborne surveillance, especially by helicopters, will be crucial to the success of the strategy.

The aim of the UN units in the demilitarised zones will be to defuse any developing dispute before it escalates into armed conflict. This is what the UN force in Cyprus has been doing for 27 years. If they are fired upon, they are entitled to fire back, but not with the intention of inflicting heavy casualties.

In Yugoslavia both sides are armed with artillery, and if the UN soldiers come under shell-fire, there will be little they can do, other than stay dug down and make a formal complaint. Peacekeeping can be highly dangerous: at least 800 UN soldiers have been killed. However, the purpose of the peacekeeping force will be to generate confidence between the two sides. Its very presence should reassure those feeling most vulnerable to attack.

Within each area, the UN will

set up observation posts and mount patrols. The daily routine of patrols will help to maintain stability and to force the Croats and Serbs to be answerable for their own actions.

The essence of a UN peacekeeping force is that operations depend not upon the use of force, but upon consent. Military personnel are allowed to use only minimum force while exercising their right of self-defence, so peacekeeping is mostly a question of observing and monitoring.

A heavyweight Western European Union peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia, equipped with artillery, armoured vehicles and all the paraphernalia of an expeditionary army, would have been highly provocative. Even if the rules of engagement had been strictly limited, the presence of artillery as a means of defending the WEU units might have invited trouble, with the Europeans caught in the middle, taking shells from both sides.

The Korean war and the Gulf war are the only examples of the Security Council deciding to enforce peace, although during the Congo operation in the 1960s, the council agreed to use force as last resort to implement the mandate to end the cessation of Katanga. The concept of self-defence for the UN troops was also broadened then, because of the breakdown of law and order and the lack of an effective central government. In the end the UN force helped establish an elected government as well as ending the anarchy in the country.

This UN success is a stark contrast to the disaster of the second non-UN multinational force which was sent to Beirut. Equipped with heavier arms than the first mission in 1982, this operation was doomed,



Nationalists demonstrate for a greater Serbia, but United Nations troops must maintain a strict neutrality

partly because the local Muslim militia viewed the French as the protectors of the Lebanese Christians, and the United States as an ally of Israel. American and French positions were caught in crossfire, and both decided to support the Israeli government forces with heavy fire. There followed the suicide bombing missions in October 1983 on the headquarters of the American and French forces, resulting in the deaths

of 241 American and 58 French soldiers.

The lesson from this peacekeeping mission is clear. It failed because the political conditions were unsuitable for peacekeeping, and because two of the countries sending troops allowed themselves to become involved on one side of the dispute. In Yugoslavia, a UN force will only succeed in separating the warring factions if it proves in its daily patrols and

dialogue that it is entirely neutral and has arms only to defend itself.

The second big consideration faced by the UN is how long troops may have to be deployed for. The 6,700-strong peacekeeping force sent to Cyprus in 1964 was expected to stay for only three months, but it was still there in 1974, when Turkish forces invaded the northern part of the island (or, as the UN's language of neutrality has

it, intervened). Today just over 2,000 UN troops — 800 of them British — are located in a buffer zone that stretches from east to west across the island.

Cyprus is a depressing reminder of how peacekeeping can become an indefinite responsibility. In Yugoslavia, deep seated hatreds, heavily armed forces and uncertain frontiers will present the UN's new secretary-general with a potent challenge.



...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

The first debate I ever took part in was about fox-hunting. Aged nine, I had just joined my prep school's debating society. Gathering my nerves, I stood up, ready to make a crucial point. I opened my mouth but not a word came out. In my terror, I had forgotten which side I was supporting. Titters echoed round the room. I still remember the kindly but peculiarly humiliating command to the gigglers from the master in charge: "Give the poor chap a chance," he said.

Aged 16, I joined my public school's debating society. Most of the debates there, too, concerned foxhunting. Occasionally, meetings were held in which ideas for future debates were bandied about. "We haven't done foxhunting for a while have we?" someone would invariably pipe up, and a foxhunting debate would be pencilled in.

Every now and then, in a flourish of revolutionary zeal, a new motion would be proposed. Instead of "This house would abolish blood sports", we would debate "Foxhunting is the unspeakable in full pursuit of the unspeakable", but the arguments remained strikingly similar. It was around this time that a young New Zealand schoolmaster managed to seize the presidency of the debating society. For two years, he had a steady eye on the presidency, but he had been forced to content himself with beavering away at less prestigious posts (keeper of stamps, coordinator of litter collection). But when it seemed

that no one could think of a single debate that did not involve foxes and hunters, however carefully worded, the motion, he was quick to step in. Back home in Wellington, he confided, he had a book called *1,000 Great Debating Topics for Schools and Universities*. He could send off to New Zealand for the book tomorrow, he said, and it would be with us in ten days' time. The relief of the society was almost tangible, so much so that when the next item on the agenda — appointment of new president — came up, all eyes fell in gratitude on him.

A fortnight later, the debating society reconvened. Amid no little excitement, the new president entered in triumph bearing his long-awaited book, *1,000 Great Debating Topics for Schools and Universities*. After a few preliminaries — apologies for absence, dates of future meetings — the discussion turned to future topics for debate. "I expect you'd like to dip into this" purred the new president, handing his book to a senior boy.

The boy opened a page at random. "Number one hundred and fifty-nine," he read. "The Maori language should be taught compulsorily in all our schools. Number one hundred and sixty: South Island would benefit from increased urbanisation..."

And so on. As I remember it, there was a certain amount of polite coughing, the book was quietly handed back, and true to form, the dogged New Zealand

lander master somehow retained his presidency. Among the topics that turned up was, "This house believes that the fox has rights too".

I mention this because in all the recent discussion on the future of foxhunting, I have never heard mentioned the interdependence of foxhunting and debating, particularly in schools. Abolish foxhunting, and you abolish school debating societies, or, at best, you condemn them to a never ending cut-and-thrust concerning the teaching of the Maori language in all our schools.

As someone who lives in a house set in fields that are regularly hunted, I have noticed that the great debate is now an integral part of the enjoyment of the sport for one and all. The hunters have grown so used to the thrill of cocking a snook at the hunt-saboteurs that they would look a little silly if left alone to chase the fox and the saboteurs be at a similar loss if their cause was won, left alone to trudge the country unaided by resentment. For both sides, the comical sport and the comical urge to halt it are invested with the necessary gravity by the background presence of the great debate, and this must continue. The police must chase the saboteurs, the saboteurs must chase the hunters, and the hunters must chase the fox. All we need now is for the police to dress up as beans and the circle will be complete, lending new vigour to this most venerable debate.

Peering into the future

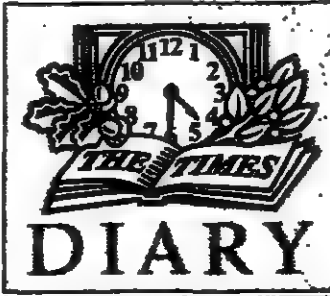
COLIN MOYNIHAN, the junior energy minister, is becoming resigned to inheriting a hereditary peerage he does not want. Almost two months after the death of his estranged older half-brother, Lord Moynihan, a search has found no trace of a marriage certificate or any other valid documentation to prove that there is a legitimate male heir to the title. This leaves the Tory MP next in line.

The former Lord Moynihan is said to have had five wives, including a nude model and a belly-dancer. His last alleged "marriage" to a woman called Jinna, produced a son, Daniel, now nine months. But without any proof that he was born in wedlock, the son's claim to become the fourth lord has no standing.

Failure to find a certificate places Colin Moynihan on the horns of an uncomfortable political dilemma. Should he renounce the title, as Tony Benn did 30 years ago, or should he give up his Commons seat in favour of a place in the Lords? At the moment Moynihan has no doubt. "I would have a month to decide whether to go to the Lords or to stay in the Commons. But my career is as an MP, and I have no intention of resigning."

However, Moynihan has a majority of less than 5,000 in Lewisham East, and the seat is one of Labour's key targets in London. In six months' time, if the election goes badly, Moynihan might find that the title offers an attractive way of rescuing his political career, for he would almost automatically be given a seat on the front-bench in the Lords.

Moynihan's future plans are further complicated by his imminent marriage to Gaynor



Louise Metcalf, who might relish the chance to become Lady Moynihan. The two are due to marry on March 7, and John Major and Mrs Thatcher are both expected to attend. If there is a spring election, however, Moynihan is planning to postpone the wedding. "Gaynor would understand," he says.

All men are liable to error, wrote John Locke in his Essay on Human Understanding. But even he would surely not have understood how the European Union of Geosciences could publish a volume entitled *Terra Abstracta* which has to be accompanied by a volume of errata running to 98 pages. Worse, it has not even got the corrections right. Section 6 is followed by section 11, while section 13 immediately precedes section 20.

One-way street? WITH Falkland Islanders this week honouring Mrs Thatcher by dedicating a day to her, the Kuwaitis are determined not to be left behind. Baghdad Street, one of Kuwait City's main thoroughfares, is to be renamed Thatcher Street, the first time a non-Arab has been so honoured.

Kuwait's ministry of information says the decision is still awaiting ratification, but the ceremony

is likely to take place on Kuwait's national day, February 25. A spokesman says: "There is still a slight possibility that it will be called Bush Street. But Thatcher Street is much more likely, because the people here love her."

Brushes with critics

THE pen may be mightier than the sword, but can it compete with the brush? Later this month, three top art critics will swap the pen — or at least the word-processor — for oil and canvas when they display their own artistic efforts for critical scrutiny.

The Spectator's Giles Aul, the Observer's Bill Feather and the

better, "If anyone chooses to criticise me, I am happy to abide by their judgment. There are precedents for critics who also paint. Look at John Ruskin."

So he will not be surprised to learn that other artists are queuing up to have their say. Tom Phillips, who recently painted Dame Iris Murdoch's portrait and who has come in for some sharp criticism at the hands of Packer, has been signed up by a Sunday newspaper to review the show. "It will be interesting to see what they produce," says Phillips, smiling sweetly. One could almost hear him sharpening his pen.

Heavenly reward

IF not the moneylenders, market forces at least have found their way inside the temple. Only days after raising admission charges at St Paul's Cathedral from £2 to £2.50, the Dean and Chapter have reduced the pay of the casual vergers by 30 per cent, to save the cathedral a sum put at "several thousand pounds" a year. The cathedral took the decision after disapproval that vergers were paid more than for what it calls "comparable posts" in commerce.

Not all the vergers have accepted the hourly pay cut — from £5.82 to £4.10 — in the best Christian spirit. Reverend Rob Marshall, the cathedral's communications officer, says: "Yes, one or two were unhappy. But we have been forced to rationalise because of the economic climate."

The vergers have the job of greeting visitors and preparing the cathedral for big events. Marshall says: "They offer a marvellous ministry of welcome to the thousands of tourists who come to the cathedral every year. No one is questioning the contribution they make." Indeed not: merely the reward they receive for doing it.

Anyone seen my pen?



Financial Times's Bill Packer will be showing more than 40 of their works at the Cadogan Contemporary Gallery in Chelsea. The gallery has nothing but praise for the fact that the critics, all of whom paint landscapes, are "bold enough to expose themselves".

With less than a fortnight to go before the exhibition, Aul still has three of his 14 oils to finish. He at least has a record as an artist. He only gave up painting in 1978 because, he says, reviewing paid



RESTRAINT ON TAXES

The instinctive reaction to yesterday's blood-thirsty claims by the Tories that Labour would raise average tax bills by £1,000 a year is to pray for an early election, to end such campaigning. But the Conservative attack is a bit more than a scare tactic comparable to Labour's bogus warnings last autumn about the privatisation of the health service. Labour has pre-empted questions to answer on its public spending and taxation plans, even if the answers are less melodramatic than the Tories' latest campaign allegations.

Labour has been vulnerable on taxation since the 1950s, when the mass of wage earners came within the income tax net. In government in the 1960s and 1970s, the party constantly faced having to reconcile its belief in an activist government with the complaints of its supporters about their rising tax bills. In opposition during the 1980s, the party got itself tied up in knots about who would have to pay higher taxes at what level to finance its spending plans.

The lesson drawn by Neil Kinnock since the 1987 defeat has been to avoid making spending commitments which even threaten to raise taxes for average wage earners. Labour has said that, unlike the Tories, it will not reduce income tax and that it would reverse any cut in income tax introduced in the Spring Budget. But all is not as simple as Mr Kinnock argues. The party's priority programme for redistributing income from the better-off, to finance increased pensions and child benefit, contains ambiguities.

The party has said it will remove the ceiling on employees' national insurance contributions of just over £20,000 a year. That means an extra 9 per cent being paid by the 12 to 13 per cent of income earners above that level. In addition, the top rate of income tax would be increased from 40 to 50 per cent for those earning "well over" £30,000 a year (according to Mr Kinnock). But Labour has declined to say at what level the top rate would be paid, or whether there would be other rates, all of which needs to be

clarified. With no cap on national insurance contributions, the top-rate group would face a marginal taxation rate of 59 per cent.

The Tories are on shakier ground in their charge that Labour's proposals imply a total increase in public spending of £35 billion. That would require a rise in income tax of £25 billion, or 10p in the pound, even after taking account of the extra amounts being paid by the better-off. The spending estimates were calculated last summer by David Mellor, the Chief Secretary, on the basis of comments made by Labour spokesmen. Labour argues that they are mostly aspirations rather than firm commitments. Mr Kinnock and his Treasury team of John Smith and Margaret Beckett have repeatedly said that the party's only commitments relate to child benefit and pensions and that any other increases will have to come from the revenue produced by economic growth.

The fine line between an aspiration and a commitment may not always be understood by voters, or even by shadow spokesmen eager to please their client interest groups. Labour should be more precise about its plans and avoid giving the impression that spending increases in desirable areas such as health and education will easily be afforded. Economic growth should produce extra tax receipts, though little money will be spare in view of existing government projections of increased spending and borrowing. Labour has yet to remove the suspicion that the average earner will pay more tax.

The Tories should also be more restrained. While they have cut income tax substantially since 1979, indirect taxes have risen considerably and many wage earners now face a higher overall tax burden than in the late 1970s. In the coming election voters will have a real choice about taxes. But it will be largely a choice between direct and indirect taxation, and a choice about the distribution of the burden between higher and lower income groups. In the size of the overall burden, the parties are closer than they pretend.

NORTH KOREAN TIMEBOMB

More than six years after signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, North Korea has at last promised to comply with its legal obligation under that treaty to permit international inspection of its rapidly developing nuclear facilities. Paper promises will not remove what the Americans have identified as the "number one threat to security" in East Asia. North Korea, which is only months from completing a nuclear processing plant, has said it will produce a couple of years from producing its first nuclear bomb, has said to prove that it is not just playing for time. The international pressure which has pushed Pyongyang to this point must be firmly maintained until the world is confident that all its facilities are under stringent and intrusive inspection.

The distance that North Korea, the most intractable of all Stalinist regimes, has travelled in the course of the past month is still remarkable. In mid-December, North and South Korea signed a reconciliation and non-aggression agreement, the first substantive accord since the 1953 armistice ending hostilities in the Korean war. That was followed on New Year's Eve by a joint declaration on "a non-nuclear Korean peninsula". Under it, North Korea not only agreed that neither side would "test, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons" but undertook not to possess facilities for enriching uranium.

Increasingly friendly and economically destitute, the ageing President Kim Il Sung now appears to have decided that he must make a show of acknowledging international anxiety. But his promises have to be set against North Korea's consistent denials that it had any intention of producing nuclear weapons, while it simultaneously invested massively in a programme with indisputable military application. It already extracts uranium and produces its own nuclear fuel. The complex at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, where two large nuclear

reactors are sited, has the configurations of a nuclear weapons factory, not those of a power plant or "research facility". North Korean missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads are already in production.

The Americans and South Koreans have won the support of Japan, the former Soviet Union and even of China in their campaign to compel a change of policy in North Korea. Their strategy has been a skilful mix of economic carrot and diplomatic stick. At first North Korea countered by setting conditions after condition for letting in nuclear inspectors. But America's decision to remove all nuclear weapons from South Korea last autumn cut off North Korea's last line of diplomatic defence, and it now appears to have abandoned them all.

The example of Iraq shows, however, how easy it is for non-co-operative, secretive police states to deceive inspectors. The standard procedures of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to which North Korea now seems prepared to agree, provide only for visits to nuclear facilities declared by the signatory country. The IAEA should insist on supplementary "special inspections" of suspect sites at short notice. As extra insurance, the South Koreans are demanding speedy implementation of December's bilateral agreement on mutual inspection of all nuclear projects on the peninsula.

Yesterday in Seoul, President Bush gave that demand America's emphatic blessing. With the succession to President Kim still undecided, North Korea is entering a period of particularly dangerous political instability. The Americans are gambling that this will make the "great leader" readier to deal. But in stabilising this last great faultline of the Cold War, the next stages will be even tougher. The word of a government which has lied for a decade about its nuclear programme cannot be taken on trust. And time is short if effective controls are to be in place before North Korea has its first bomb.

LP RECORDS SCRATCHED

As if from a stuck gramophone record, the prediction that the 12-inch vinyl LP will shortly be banished to specialist shops has been heard too often. But at last W. H. Smith, one of Britain's leading retailers of recorded music, has announced the official retirement of the LP. Smith, who owns Our Price and half of Virgin as well as its own high street chain, is in a position to make the prediction this time come true.

The LP's very name — standing for "long playing" record to distinguish it from the old 78 rpm record replaced in the 1950s — is a reminder of the obsolescence built into everything in this business. The recorded music industry regards itself as part of contemporary fashion and leisure rather than as an aspect of high art. Profit comes from a constant turnover of heavily promoted new styles, by the routine manipulation of public taste. And if that adds to the enjoyment of the customer and the game is played fairly, why not?

LPs are a declining sector of the market, falling by about 10 per cent a year. The LP slide has been accompanied by a steady rise in sales of compact discs, and compact disc players are now present in 26 per cent of British homes. But CDs are much more expensive, typically about £12 compared with £8 for an LP or cassette. So while the total number of recordings sold has declined, thanks to the higher price of CDs, retail financial turnover has kept up surprisingly well. Meanwhile audio cassettes, thanks to the Sony Walkman and its imitators, and to the in-car stereo radio, have held their markets alongside CDs and LPs as the third widely used system for recorded music.

In spite of constant complaints that CDs are too expensive — they each cost only about £1 to make — the industry has survived an Office of Fair Trading investigation and is bringing prices slowly down of its own accord. There is some merit in its argument that provided there is no cartel, the fair price for a CD is what the market will bear. What the CD needs to bring its price down faster is competition from different recording systems of the same quality.

That it may soon get. The likely disappearance of the LP from shops and catalogues is linked to the imminent arrival of two new recording formats, the Sony Mini Disc and the Philips digital compact cassette (DCC). The most recent innovation, Sony's digital audio tape (DAT) launched in 1987, was no great success, but manufacturers and retailers are committing themselves extensively to the new Philips format. The industry knows that by the time the Mini Disc and the DCC are marketed this year there must be a substantial catalogue of recorded titles available in those formats, otherwise the customer has no incentive to switch from CD or audio cassette.

But keeping a full range of recordings on five formats — LPs as well as cassettes and CDs, and now Mini Discs and DCCs — was never going to make economic sense. What matters is that the DCC should give the CD a run for its money, and fierce competition should be as much in price as in quality and range of music. But with the prospect of this "format war" breaking out in the electronic-leisure industry there is little room for old technologies. The LP has sadly reached its final click...click...click.

Clearing obstacles to economic and monetary recovery

From Professor Tim Congdon and others

Sir, We write to commend your leading article of December 30 ("Disbanding sterling") and, in particular, to express our strong agreement with your conclusion that sterling entered the European exchange-rate mechanism "at the wrong time and the wrong exchange rate".

As in our letter to you published on February 13, 1991, we continue to be deeply concerned about the state of the economy. In that letter we recommended that the government should cut interest rates sharply or risk a collapse in economic activity, even a depression. We are glad that base rates have fallen from 14 per cent to 10.5 per cent. But the cuts were too small and too slow. The government must now go much further.

It is a measure of the validity of our warning that, despite the welcome drop in interest rates since last February, the incidence of company failures is substantially higher now than at any other time in the post-war period.

On present policies there is a serious risk that national output, which probably declined by 2.5 per cent in 1991, will keep falling in early 1992. The current recession will probably be the longest in the post-war period and it may also prove the deepest.

Even the stability of our financial system is being questioned, because lower house prices and commercial property values are inflicting losses of unparalleled severity on banks and building societies.

The obstacle to lower interest rates, and so to a return to a sensible and moderate monetary policy, is our membership of the ERM. As we explained in our previous letter, the best course would be to combine our departure from the ERM with a firm counter-inflationary commitment to domestic money-supply targets over the medium term. At present the money supply is growing too slowly; but over a three to five-year period its growth should be stabilised at a rate compatible with full price stability.

Critics of this policy sometimes claim that quitting the ERM would destroy the credibility of the government's macroeconomic policies. We submit that, after the Treasury's repeated forecasting mistakes in recent years and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's forlorn attempts to talk up the economy and the pound, the government's macroeconomic

policies have little credibility left to be destroyed.

By contrast, domestic monetary targets were successful in the early and mid-1980s in lowering inflation to under 5 per cent and achieving a fair measure of economic stability. Their explicit reintroduction now, together with a floating pound and in the context of this harsh recession, would begin to restore both confidence and credibility.

Some commentators may protest that these actions would be contrary to the spirit of Maastricht and would jeopardise the prospects of a single European currency. But whatever longer-term ambitions there may be for European monetary union, the government should not let others inflict a terrible recession on us now in order to promote a hypothetical, perhaps illusory, goal at some distant date in the future.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CONGDON,
BILL MARTIN,
PATRICK MINFORD,
GORDON PEPPER,
ALAN WALTERS,
PETER WARBURTON,
Liverpool Macroeconomic Research Ltd.,
PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX,
January 6.

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, I see that your correspondent Peter Riddell ("No prizes for prudence", January 3), continues to attribute the errors in economic policy which have produced the present recession to the relaxation of fiscal discipline in the 1988 Budget, even more than to the easing of monetary control which followed the Stock Exchange collapse late in 1987.

However, in the interests of historical accuracy (as distinct from political convenience), it is necessary to point out that the relaxations in economic policy started well before the 1987 election and did not originate after it, whether in the autumn of that year or the spring of the next, though actions then may well have compounded the errors.

One example will suffice, though there are many more. In 1986 the government's then favourite measure of monetary growth — sterling M3 — exceeded its target by a large amount. The Chancellor's response was simply to abandon the target in the 1987 Budget. During all this time real interest rates were low or negative.

Small wonder that we experienced

the astounding boom in the housing market which went on until 1988, to be followed by the inevitable slump in which we still flounder. I recall well the puzzled and indeed alarmed reaction of your then correspondent on monetary affairs, Tim Congdon, who apparently found these deviations from strict monetarist orthodoxy inexplicable.

It is obviously convenient for some purposes to date our present troubles to late 1987 or 1988. But strict verity demands that their origins be pushed back at least a further year or even more.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
3 Little Tangle,
Womersley, Guildford, Surrey,
January 3.

From Professor Sidney Pollard, FBA

Sir, In his highly selective letter about his period of stewardship (January 4), Sir Geoffrey Howe forgot to mention:

1. That it was his first Budget, with its massive Thatcherite transfer of the tax burden from the rich to the poor, which raised the rate of inflation to the extent that the drastic remedies he mentions became a necessity.

2. That the much-lauded growth period of seven years merely raised us back again from the pit into which his policies had brought the economy, so that the overall growth rate for the period as a whole was — miraculously, in view of the oil bonanza — still well below that of the years since the end of the war to 1979.

3. That at the end of it all the economy was so weakened that when the second bout of Thatcherite inflation occurred, this time as the direct result of Nigel Lawson's policies, and was curbed by the same crude and cruel measures as the first, the economy is being devastated to a degree unmatched since the 1930s and unparalleled anywhere else in the industrial world.

Being personally responsible for a policy which damaged the economy to an extent that even the sufferings of millions could not fully put right is bad enough; to boast about it thereafter is really quite intolerable.

Yours faithfully,
S. POLLARD,
34 Bents Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
January 6.

Business letters, page 73

The bells! The bells!

From Mr Jonathan Rose

Sir, How pleasing it was to read in your front-page article (January 1) that the 12 bells of St Paul's Cathedral were heard for the first time in 46 years across London ringing out the old year and welcoming in the new.

The photograph shown, however, must surely become one which will be in demand for all future textbooks concerned with an introduction into the noble and ancient art of campanology as a warning of something which should not be done. The gentleman in the flowing garments may, of course, have dropped some personal possession into the mouth of the bell in the picture; but a health warning should be added that under no circumstances is it advisable to be adjacent to a precariously balanced bell in the "up" position so attired unless you are highly experienced in working with bells or have such a faith in the Almighty that you can probably walk on water as well.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN ROSE,
1 Lodge Close, Compton, Wiltshire,
Taunton, Somerset.

Gains and losses

From Mr A. C. Record

Sir, Some years ago, I wrote drawing attention to portents in the day's racing results which were puzzlingly contradictory. The Thatcher having been soundly defeated, while No-U-Turn romped home a winner.

The signs at the start of this year are much clearer. I can report. Loads money and Monetary Fund were declared runners in your sports pages for the meetings at Lingfield Park and Nottingham today but both were withdrawn. Perhaps it was for this reason that the FT Share Index gave up in the afternoon the whole of a large gain made during the morning. It certainly seems that the rest of us see things that Norman Lamont does not — or vice versa.

Yours faithfully,
TONY RECORD,
4 Sambourne Court,
Sea Walls Road, Bristol, Avon,
January 2.

known to be reviewing whether to continue direct calls to the UK, when Rotterdam and Antwerp are so close.

There are not perhaps many issues that unite UK ports, British and foreign shipping operators, the fishing industry, importers and exporters as well as chambers of commerce. However, they speak with one voice in calling on the government to think again and, in the spirit of the single market, remove this unnecessary barrier to trade and the competitiveness of British traders and ports.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. SALVESEN
(Chairman),
Lights Advisory Committee,
30/32 St Mary Axe, EC3.

Intimidation in South Africa

From Mr Maritz Vandenberg

Sir, Your item about intimidation of reporters in the black townships of South Africa (later editions, December 31) touches on a frightening phenomenon that is being noticeably under-reported in Britain.

For just over a year, the South African Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg (a body of which, to declare an interest, I am a member and which, since the Fifties, has led the way in researching and publicising the iniquities of apartheid) has been publishing evidence of a new censorship. Operated by political activists in the black townships, this censorship is more intolerant and more savage than anything seen during the years of apartheid. Black journalists allege that large and vital areas of activity in South Africa are not reaching the press there as a result of the intimidation of reporters.

Journalists who write about subjects defined as "sensitive" by township activists are being threatened and terrified into silence. The circulation of a Zulu newspaper in Natal fell by 23,000 to 123,000 after shopkeepers selling it were attacked. People caught reading it were forced to eat it and sometimes threatened with death. The driver of a van distributing a non-approved newspaper was stopped and promised he would have a burning tyre placed round his neck if caught again.

These are not isolated incidents: there is every appearance of a systematic and growing reign of terror being imposed upon the South African press by political organisations mostly from the radical left.

The British media, to their credit, were ceaselessly vigilant for four decades in exposing intimidation of the South African press under apartheid; and this constant pressure played a small role in keeping a tradition of freedom of information alive during those bad years. I pray they will be equally committed to the exposure of a new censorship that promises to be more ferocious than the old. So far there is little sign of it.

Yours etc.,
MARITZ VANDENBERG,
21 a Gwendolen Avenue, SW15,
January 5.

Quindecennial plant?

From Lady Bouchier

Sir, Your report (earlier editions, December 20) the blooming at Cannington Agricultural College of the Century plant, "said to flower only once every 100 years". I first came across the agave when I lived in Bermuda, and was much intrigued by its blue-green swordlike leaves and the myth of its centennial blossoming.

It is comparatively rare in Japan, where I now reside, but I was delighted to discover a specimen in 1950, and planted it in my seaside garden where it prospered and multiplied, until a huge typhoon wave in 1959 washed all my Century plants away, except for a few tiny shoots clinging in rock crevices. Exactly 15 years later, in 1974, they reached maturity and flowered.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY BOUCHIER,
2275 Ishiki, Hayama,
Kanagawa-ken, 240-01,
Japan,
January 5.

Christmas postscript

From Mrs James Mitchell

Sir, I write on Twelfth Night to ask whether the European Commission could issue a directive banning specified categories of Christmas cards on grounds of energy conservation. Among the candidates most favoured for prohibition I suggest:

1. Enormous illustrations of substantial architecture in adverse weather conditions, as favoured by financial institutions and advisers — e.g., "Old St Paul's at twilight in the snow" or "Falmouth telegraph office in a blizzard".

2. Cards dispatched (on a regular annual basis) within a one-mile radius of the senders' home demanding "Why haven't we met in '91? I'll call early in January to make a date for you to come to dinner".

3. Computer print-out commentaries on the senders' family lives. These dwell on school careers ("Jane played her recorder again in the concert and Henry only just failed his GCSE new-spotting assignment"). They often give details of the demise of valued family pets ("We're sorry to tell our friends Bobby the rabbit is no longer with us").

With pre-Lenten greetings,
Yours faithfully,
JANICE MITCHELL,
4 Heathfield Gardens, SW18,
January 6.

From Mr M. T. Phillips

Sir, Phillips's law says that the Christmas tree lights which are today being put away fully serviceable and will remain untouched for almost a year will not work when switched on next December.

Yours faithfully,
M. T. PHILLIPS,
5 Chapel Close, Milton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire,
January 6.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 6: Today being the Feast of the Epiphany, a Sung Eucharist was held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were made on behalf of the Queen by Air Vice Marshal Barry Newman and Colonel Malcolm Haverall (Gentlemen Ushers to Her Majesty).

The Bishop of London (Dean of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal) assisted by the Reverend William Booth (Sub-Dean of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal) and the Reverend Gordon Watkins (Priest in Ordinary).

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

Birthdays today

Lord Bradbury, 78; Judge Hazel Cusack, 61; Mr Hunter Davies, author and broadcaster, 84; Mr Gerald Durrell, zoologist and writer, 67; Sir James Harford, former colonial administrator, 93; Sir Maynard Jenour, company chairman, 87; Mr Ian La France, screenwriter and producer, 55; Mr Ross Norman, squash champion, 33; the Viscount of Oxford, 58; Sir John Page, former chairman, National Ports Council, 77; Sir Alastair Pilkington, president, Pilkington, 72; Professor K.W. Sykes, chemist, 71; Lord Taylor of Hadfield, 87; Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vannack, former Lord Mayor of London, 70; Mr Will Wyatt, managing director, BBC Network Television, 50.

Church news

The Rev Andrew Doyle, Assistant Curate, Lynchett Minster (Salisbury), and the Rev Canon C. Currie, Curate, Kirby (Liverpool). The Rev Lynn Pocock, Parish

Appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Ministry of Defence effective from January 1, 1992:

J.F. Howe, on promotion, to be Deputy Under Secretary (Civilian Management). M. Gainsborough to be Assistant Under Secretary (Service Personnel). T.F.W.B. Knapp to be Assistant Under Secretary (Infrastructure and Logistics). M.L. Seddons, on promotion, to be Assistant Under Secretary (Adjutant-General). D.J. Gould, on promotion, to be Assistant Under Secretary (Supply and Organisation) (Air). The Rt Hon. J. Smeaton to be Assistant Under Secretary (Air Procurement Executive).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Baker and Miss R. Pringle. The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs James F. Baker, of Leadenham, Lincolnshire, and Ruth, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs George M. Pringle, of Uppingham, Essex.

Mr R.H. Bartles and Miss S.N.C. Madden. The engagement is announced between Robert Hartington, younger son of Major and Mrs Derek Bartles, of Warfield, Berkshire, and Susanah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Madden, of Bath.

Dr M. Casapieri and Dr M.G. Almond. The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Dr and Mrs Peter Casapieri, of Sheffield, and Gabriela, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J.G. Almond, of Gibraltar.

Mr W.P. Dwyer and Miss S.A. Murray. The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.H. Dwyer, of Westford, Massachusetts, USA, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr R.D. Murray, of Galimpton, Devon, and Mrs J.S. Masters, of Guildford, Surrey.

1st Lieutenant D. Fraley and Miss P.K. Fordham. The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Fraley, of Iroquois, Ohio, USA, and Polly, daughter of Judge and Mrs Jeremy Fordham, of Barnes, London.

Mr A. Galletley and Miss A. Kennedy. The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Mr and Mrs John Galletley, of Barstow, Suffolk, and Annabelle, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Kennedy, of Ascot, Berkshire.

M.C.B.G. Gossington and Miss E.L. Lane Fox. The engagement is announced between Cyril, son of Mr and Mrs Benoit Gossington, of Paris, France, and Emily, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Lane Fox, of Caulcott, Oxfordshire.

Mr N.J.D. Hewitt and Miss M.A.J. Hill-Reid. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Hewitt, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, and Marni, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A.S. Hill-Reid, of Brook, Surrey.

Mr R.H.G. Jackson and Miss C.M. Allison. The engagement is announced between Richard Henry George, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G.C. Jackson, of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, and Carriana, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.W. Allison, of High Ireby, Cumbria.

Mr C.J. Klopfer and Miss K.S. Bacon. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs H. Klopfer, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Bacon, of Tonbridge, Kent.

Mr M.C. Lyness and Miss S.J. Rankin. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the Rev W. Cowper and Mrs Lyness, of Comber, Co Down, and Clare, daughter of Mr Alick Rankin, of Edinburgh, and Mrs Sue Rankin.

Mr S. McGraw and Miss E.G. Callier. The engagement is announced between Sean, only son of Mr and Mrs Dennis McGraw, of Gossnarth, Lancashire, and Susan Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Collier, of Whitechapel, Lancashire.

Mr P.J. Morley and Miss E.A. Grant. The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs Edward Morley, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Grant, of Edlesborough Mill, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.S. Peckham and Miss L. Callaghan. The engagement is announced between Robert Shannan, youngest son of Professor Michael and Professor Catherine Peckham, of Brook Green, London, and Louisa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter G. Callaghan, of Kifissia, Athens.

Mr H.B.V. Reynolds and Miss S.S. Madden. The engagement is announced between Howard, elder son of Mrs May Reynolds, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, and Susanah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Madden, of Chulthorne Down, Somerset.

Mr T.J.G. Sparrow and Miss S.M. Williams. The engagement is announced between Toby, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Sparrow, of Abinger Hammer, Surrey, and Susanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jorgen Erikson, of Nakshov, Denmark.

Mr D.R. Stacey and Miss A.M.E. Edwards. The engagement is announced between David, son of the Reverend Nicolas and the Hon Mrs Stacey, of Selling, Kent, and Annabel, daughter of Major and Mrs Michael Edwards, of Norwood Farm, Dorset.

Mr G.B. Strahan and Miss S.J. King. The engagement is announced between Gerard, elder son of Mr C.J. Strahan and the late Mrs S. Strahan, of Llanes, Dublin, Ireland, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.V. King, of Hill Head, Hampshire.

Mr B.H. de Waal and Miss S.E. Jones. The engagement is announced between Bernard, son of the Rev Canon and Mrs Hugo de Waal, of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Jones, of Cambridge, and granddaughter of the late Rev Canon and Mrs C.H. Leedes, of Grantham.

Mr D.R.A. Webb and Miss C.M. Sted. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs D.E. Webb, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.P. Sted, of Roker, Sunderland.

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OBITUARIES

GINETTE LECLERC

Ginette Leclerc, actress, died in Paris on January 1 aged 79. She was born Genevieve Menu in Montmartre, Paris, on February 9, 1912.

ONE glance at Ginette Leclerc in Henri-Georges Clouzot's film *Le Corbeau* and one instinctively knew she was what movie circles called, in those days, a "bad girl". Dressed in a negligee, she lounged on a bed, a cigarette between painted lips, polishing her toe nails: this was Denise, the town cripple, though she never let any physical impediment stand in the way of her sexuality.

Produced during the Occupation for Continental Films, an off-shoot of the German company UFA, *Le Corbeau* (1943) describes a town, under siege from a poison pen, steadily disintegrating into malice and hysteria. The Resistance viewed Clouzot's tale as sabotage of France's good name and they extracted revenge during the purges that followed the Liberation. Clouzot and the screenwriter were banned from cinema work; Leclerc, along with her co-star Pierre Fresnay, spent time in prison.

Leclerc's trademark had always been earthy, uncomplicated sex appeal, though most films from her debut in 1932 onwards looked no further than the immediate surface. The surface, indeed, was beguiling: hair often gathered in a heavy fringe, a succulent mouth cradling dazzling teeth, saucer-shaped eyes set in a face dancing with quick expressions. Like her rival screen vamp Viviane Romance, Leclerc had little solid theatrical training: she was essentially born under the arc lights.

Ciboulette (1933), based



Ginette Leclerc as temptress in Henri-Georges Clouzot's *Le Corbeau*

on Reynaldo Hahn's opera, required her to sing and dance — she could do both well, and sometimes performed in cabaret and music hall: other early films used her merely as the saucy girl perched on an old gentleman's lap. But discerning directors soon rewarded her with better parts. Pierre Chenal put her into *L'Homme de nulle part* (1936), based on Pirandello; then she scored a big personal success in *Léonide Moguy's Prisons sans barreaux* (1938) as Renée, the naughtiest inmate in a girls' prison, with her own private stock of alcohol.

Next, Marcel Pagnol gave

her the title role in his comedy *La Femme du boulanger* (1938), alongside the great, scene-stealing Raimu. True to type, Leclerc deserted her husband for a handsome shepherd, prompting the baker to go on strike. The film's friendly depiction of Provencal manners found a wide audience in France and abroad.

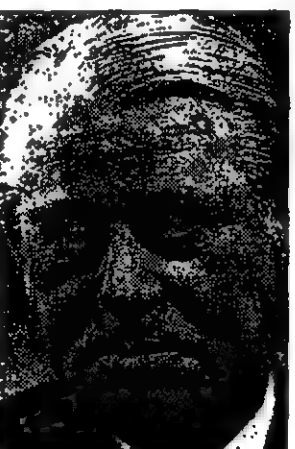
After the troubles of the

purges, Leclerc worked less in the cinema: time, in any case, was taking its toll of the vamp image. But the Paris theatre welcomed her special talents: she appeared successfully in Tennessee Williams's *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and in Sartre's *La Putain respectueuse* (the author particularly relished her performance).

Future film assignments remained mostly routine, though she flourished under Max Ophüls's direction as a lady of pleasure in *Le Plaisir* (1951). In a last fling with controversy, she joined the surreal dance of love and death that was *Walerian Borowczyk's Goto, L'île d'Amour* (1968), and took a small part in a brothel madame, naturally, in Joseph Strick's version of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* (1969).

An autobiography, *Ma Vie privée*, appeared in 1963.

LESLIE LANE



Leslie Lane, CBE, town planner and director of the Civic Trust, 1962-1970, has died aged 81. He was born on April 19, 1910.

CONSERVATION took on new life while Leslie Lane was director of the Civic Trust. Its president, the late Duncan Sandys, piloted through Parliament the Civil Amenities Act, largely drafted by the trust and which established the concept of the conservation area as an area of special architectural or historic interest. Today there are around 8,000 such areas designated by local authorities in the exercise of their planning powers.

Lane was a town planner of considerable distinction, becoming president of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1964-5. His public career spanned over 30 years with the London county council as planning officer and senior planning officer from 1930 to 1962. He then joined the Civic Trust as its director in 1962.

Educated at Luton Grammar School, he became architect with a firm of architects

and surveyors in the town at the age of 16 and remained there for the required five years. Leslie Lane came to London at the age of 21 and began his life-long love affair with the capital city. He was a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors being awarded its Special Diploma in Town Planning in 1954. At the London county council he was involved in all aspects of the capital's post-war planning including the London Development Plan in 1941 and its revision ten years later. But more localised though seminal issues also claimed his attention in the heady years when in the 1950s town planning was optimistic and visionary.

These included housing in London and at Roehampton and the Brandon estate in Southwark, the development of London's South Bank, the redevelopment of the Elephant and Castle and the programme for the LCC's Expanded Towns Programme between 1952 and 1960. Any one of these would have represented a major achievement in the course of a full professional life.

Among Leslie Lane's other interests and commitments were his membership of the council of the Town and Country Planning Association, of the South East Economic Planning Council, the Architectural Association and the South East Advisory Committee of the Land Commission.

Perhaps his greatest single achievement at the Civic Trust was in leading the team which produced the report proposing the creation of a 22-mile linear park in the Lee

School news

Benenden School Term starts today at Benenden School. The School play, *The Three Penny Opera*, will be performed on February 6, 7 and 8. This term's Founders' Lecture, "Why be a Theologian?", will be given by Professor Bryan Williams of Christ Church, Oxford on March 11.

Chamberhouse The Long Quarter starts today. M.R.F. Cash is Head of School. Maria Steyn is Head Girl. R.D. Tate is Captain of Hockey and M.T. Daly is Captain of Football. Chamberhouse Musicians will give a lunchtime concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Tuesday, March 3, at 1.05pm. Excurs is from February 14 to 18. The Quarter ends on Friday, March 27. OC Day will be on Saturday, June 27. A Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, October 10, for all those who left between OQ 1949 and OQ 1955 (details from the Recorder).

The Cheltenham Ladies' College Term opens today at Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from Friday, February 14, to the end of the week, March 1, inclusive. The combined concert with Cheltenham College takes place on Sunday, March 15, at 7.30pm in Cheltenham Town Hall. Includes music by Rutter and Handel. The SEC1 Drama production, *Once in a Life Time*, takes place at 7.00pm in the Princess Hall on Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20. Term ends on Saturday, March 21, after Leaving Prayers which start at 10.00am in the Princess Hall.

Edgely College, Devon. Term begins today. The 11+ Entrance Examination will be held on Friday, January 17. Old Edgelyians will be meeting in Exeter on Saturday, February 29. Our Careers convention will be held on Friday, March 13, and

the College Production of *My Fair Lady* on March 19, 20 and 21. Term ends on Friday, March 27.

Eltham College Spring term began on January 6 and ends on April 3. The 150th Anniversary Concert will be held in the Fairfield Hall, Croydon on March 3, and the Anniversary Banquet in the Connaught Rooms, London on April 4. Information about both events can be obtained from the College Office (081-827 445). On March 11, the Lord Chancellor, The Right Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will address the 200th meeting of the College Society.

The Princess Helena College Spring Term begins today and ends on March 26. Emma Burgess continues as Head of School, with Denise Wong as her deputy. Mrs Martin Laing has taken up her appointment as Chairman and we welcome two new Governors to the Board, Lady Thorne and Mrs Sheehy Law. The Vith Form Dinner House opens today. The official inauguration ceremony, which is hoped will be in the presence of the President of the College, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, will take place later this term. The School Concert will be held on Saturday March 21.

Princess Alice Hall. Scholarship examinations for entry to the College in September 1992 at 11+, 12+ and 13+ will take place in February. Details and application forms may be obtained from the Headmistress's Secretary.

Sevenoaks School Sevenoaks School returns today for the Lent Term. Mr R.P. Wilkinson, OBE, BA, has been elected Chairman of Governors on the retirement of Mr R.A.D. Froy. Helen Russell will be School Captain. The 30th Anniversary of the International Centre will be celebrated on May 30, when all past members of the House will be welcomed.

Sir Edward Brown There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Mr Norman Gordon (Nigel) Wykes in Eton College Chapel on Friday, January 24, at 2.45pm.

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ROBERT STEPHENS

Robert Henry Stephens, former foreign editor of *The Observer*, died on January 2 aged 71. He was born on September 4, 1920.

BOB Stephens's passport into national journalism was a newspaper he edited for British soldiers in post-war Palestine. His dispassionate reporting of the Arab-Jewish struggle, which has ever since dominated politics in the Middle East, was commended to *The Observer* foreign news desk, then in need of a new correspondent in the region.

He joined the newspaper's staff in 1946 and remained there for nearly 40 years, moving as a foreign correspondent to Berlin and then Paris before returning to be based in its London office. He was made editor of its foreign news service, syndicating *Observer* material round the world, in 1953, then diplomatic correspondent in 1957 — when Britain was still reeling after Suez.

Although he later became the paper's foreign editor, reflecting his growing influence over its coverage and opinion, it was as a writer and commentator that he was best known. While his chief area of expertise remained the Middle East and the Levant, as is suggested by his principal books, a distinguished biography of Nasser and a study of the Greek-Turkish struggle in Cyprus, he was also an authority on East-West relations — which he saw develop from the days of the Cold War, through those of détente to the final dramatic dismantling of the Berlin wall.

The steadily improving climate between East and West was very much in line with Stephens's thinking. Even during the frostiest days of the Cold War he believed that the two halves of Europe had more in common than was

generally believed. The Middle East was the example he would draw upon — pointing out the restraint with which the superpowers both moved there.

In furtherance of this belief he patiently cultivated contacts with the more enlightened members of the Soviet embassy staff in London. His perseverance paid off in the long term, providing him after their return to Moscow with good sources and a sounding board inside the Russian circles of power.

The Observer regarded Stephens as very much one of their own. He was liberal, committed, sympathetic to the Third World's underprivileged. But his idealism stopped well short of wishful thinking. His great strength was his analytical mind which enabled him to cut through woolly arguments and reintroduce a note of realism. In manner he was a quiet, gentle man.

Illness dogged his last years on the newspaper and his retirement. He was provided with an electric typewriter (in the days when journalists still used manual machines) as Parkinson's Disease gradually took hold. But his powers of movement were increasingly restricted.

Bob Stephens was a Londoner who was educated at University College School, Hampstead, and London University where he was one of the first to take a course in journalism.

His first marriage, at Aleppo, Syria, was to Taqui Altounyan, an Anglo-Armenian who, together with her brothers and sisters, was one of the children on whom Arthur Ransome based his *Swallows and Amazons*. This marriage ended in divorce and he married in 1979 the journalist Helga Graham. He is survived by her and by three sons and a daughter from his first marriage.

GORDON PIRIE

Toby Norris, former chairman, British Orienteering Federation, writes:

IN THE mid-1960s Gordon Pirie (obituary, December 9) like a number of notable athletes such as Brasher, Disley, Fyfe and Tulloh, took up orienteering. In his first attempt he discovered that to run was not enough. He studied the game and became the fastest British orienteer in the late 1960s, winning many championships. He continued to be noted.

for one breath per step and for outpokenness. He attracted around him a group of younger orienteers. Their success was notable, as is their continued contribution to the sport.

I planned courses with him which involved running with him in the forest. He treated me, one whose performance normally encouraged others by knowing there was someone there whom they could run faster, fraternally and cheerfully.

SIR RONALD SWAYNE

Clive Thomas writes:

YOUR obituary of Sir Ronald Swayne (November 4) omitted a side of his character for which many will feel grateful.

In the 1950s, as a partner in Alfred Holt (Blue Funnel) he was responsible for recruiting a cadre of young men for management service with

Mansfield and Co. in Singapore. His warmth, humour and plain good common sense were of inestimable value to those who ventured abroad. He gave a book to each — I have mine still — a personally inscribed copy of *Teach yourself Malay*. He was a much respected man.

Archaeology

Frenchman revives art of cave painters

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A FRENCH archaeologist has found out how Ice Age cave paintings were created. Powdered pigments were blown at the rock surface, using the hands or simple tools to form the edges of the figures.

Michel Lorblanchet says that over the past 12 years he has replicated "several 20,000-year-old masterpieces". Working initially with a charcoal crayon by the light of an animal-fat lamp like those found in the decorated cave of Lascaux, he copied a monochrome frieze of 25 animal figures at the Pech-Merle cave in the Quercy region of southern France.

He has now used information from Australian aboriginal artists to recreate one of the most famous palaeolithic paintings, the pair of spotted horses at Pech-Merle. These images, just inside the cavern and seen by thousands of tourists each year, have their heads and forequarters in solid black and the rest of their bodies outlined and covered with black spots of varying sizes. There is also the outline of a large fish.

The slightly fuzzy outlines of the painted areas suggested that the aboriginal technique of blowing or spitting the pigment on to the fragile rock surface, using a variety

of screens or stencils, had been used in the Ice Age also. In his article, "Spitting Images", M. Lorblanchet says: "I put the charcoal powder in my mouth, chewed it, and diluted it with saliva and water" to form "a paint that adheres well to a cave wall".

Working to a charcoal sketch, he spat a series of dots and then fused them to form the mane, making the sharp outline of the back by using his hand as a screen. "The almost geometric lines of the tail and hind leg were created by spitting the charcoal mixture into the gap between two parallel hands. I finger-painted a series of short black lines to represent hair."

The 212 dots were made by spitting through a hole in a leather screen held at varying distances from the cave wall. The entire painting, which had four main stages of development ending with the addition of red elements in ochre, took 32 hours to make, with an assistant to hold the lamp and prepare the pigment.

M. Lorblanchet says: "The prehistoric artists must have worked for five or six days: this work is arduous, and frequent breaks are necessary."

Source: *Archaeology* 44: No 6: 24-31.

Life is like

Director survives call to quit zoo

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

FELLOWS of the Zoological Society of London last night backed away from a threatened confrontation with the governing council and management of London zoo. But in a stormy meeting they made clear their unhappiness with the zoo's recent record.

In two ballots — by a show of hands, and also by a postal vote, the result of which was announced yesterday — they gave the zoo authorities support for the future in their £9 million renewal programme, which was chosen by the zoo council yesterday in preference to the much more ambitious £61 million scheme put forward by a private consortium, Regent's Park Zoo Ltd.

Nearly 400 fellows of the society crowded into the London University meeting, which was called by a reform group who blamed the zoo regime for the crisis of identity and finance which has threatened its closure.

The reformers, led by zoologists Stephen Cobb and Colin Tudge, put forward proposals for the future, involving more breeding of endangered animals, and called for the resignation of half the council and for the dismissal of senior management, including the zoo director, David Jones.

The resignation calls were defeated last night, that affecting Mr Jones by seven votes, and Mr Jones said he would be remaining in his post. The zoo treasurer, Peter Holwell, promised that there would be a review of the management structure "from top to bottom", and said that the ideas of the reform group would be incorporated in future plans.

Dr Cobb said last night: "We have given them the most tremendous kick in the backside to get on with modernising the whole outlook of a stuffy old society."

The zoo's annual stocktake of animals, to be completed next week, will reveal considerably smaller numbers than last year. The 1,159 mammals, 884 birds, 460 reptiles and 202 amphibians are being reduced to try to cut costs, as are the 2,600 fish and 13,000 invertebrates.

Safari park closes, page 19



Radio daze: a van on its way to the races, top left, and leaving Buckingham Palace in 1959. The present taxi, below, retracts its aerial for the last time in the shadow of the Volkswagen microbus.

Taxi talked to nation

Continued from page 1
meetings frequently found themselves the subject of unwelcome attention. Once the aerial was aloft the vehicle became a focus for sometimes truculent members of the crowd who, when particularly roused, would rock its occupants violently.

The aerial posed other problems, too. On a number of occasions the radio car was driven away with its mast still partially extended. All would go well until the vehicle attempted to negotiate a low bridge or tunnel.



Sir Allan decides to change sides

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Allan Green, QC, is to return to the Bar as a defence advocate, and not as a prosecutor, his earlier role.

The former Director of Public Prosecutions, who resigned last October after being warned by police over kerb-crawling, will take up a place in his old chambers at 1 Hare Court in the Temple, which are headed by Michael Kalisher, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association.

Yesterday, Sir Allan, who expects to return to the Bar in April, was reluctant to be drawn last he appeared to be "advertising". He said from his London home, however: "It is for others to decide what I do, but I will do what I am sent."

He agreed that there would be a change in his role and that would be likely to resume

his advocacy for the defence rather than the prosecution. "Others have commented that this would be the case. That is obviously much more likely, and I think it is right," he said.

Mr Kalisher, who is in Hong Kong, said yesterday: "I wrote to Sir Allan as soon as the incident happened, saying that if he would like to come back he would be more than welcome." He said that Sir Allan had had a distinguished career at the Bar and had been extremely highly thought of. Other chambers of repute had also approached him, Mr Kalisher added.

Sir Allan, who is aged 56, has not practised in the courts as a barrister for five years.

Law Times, page 25, 27

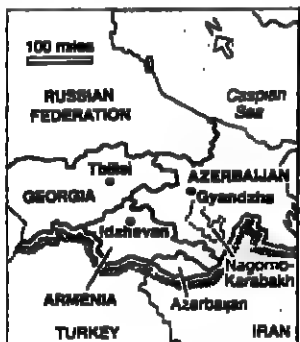
President flees to Armenia

Continued from page 1

cally elected leader had been ousted so unceremoniously. "He was a great humanist to the end," one elderly lecturer said, "and the people who have overthrown him were bandits."

Jaba Ioseliani, head of the *Mhadioni* (horsemen), the rebel force which jointly runs the new military council that has claimed control of Georgia, said yesterday that the group would continue to pursue the overthrown president, although his departure from parliament had apparently been arranged with the rebel side.

Mr Gamsakhurdia's hasty departure marked the climax of two weeks of sniper battles between government and opposition forces. Despite the setting and passing of several deadlines for him to give himself up, he remained defiant in his bunker. The final blow came on Sunday night, when rebel forces pounded the



building with machinegun and rocket fire from positions in the mountains.

Fire raged through one wing of the parliament, triggering explosions as it engulfed small stocks of arms left behind. The courtyard of the yellow stone stalinist building was littered yesterday with spent ammunition, masonry and wrecked vehicles. Some of the stone columns at the front of the building had been blown away completely, and only bare wire reinforcements

joined the main sections together.

A column of thick black smoke rose over Tbilisi and drifted towards the snow-capped ridges surrounding the city. "Gone at last," one gunman said, sitting on the ground. "Georgia can breathe again."

But Nodar Georgadze, the former Georgian defence minister who helped to arrange Mr Gamsakhurdia's departure, said that the country faced hard times. "Every one, all Georgians, are guilty. Gamsakhurdia has a greater responsibility as president, but we all bear our share," he told an American television news channel.

"This may not be the end but the beginning," he said. "Until now the war has been limited to the Rustaveli [Prospect]; but now it could spread to the whole of Georgia."

Trouble-stirrers, page 9

Lamont says Labour will lift tax £1,000

Continued from page 1
would be offset by higher VAT. Mr Lamont also sought to assert the Conservative party's tax-cutting credentials.

He ruled out any further switch from direct to indirect taxation by insisting that the government could afford to achieve its long-term target of a basic rate of 20p without increasing taxes elsewhere.

In remarks reminiscent of George Bush's "no new taxes" pledge, Mr Lamont said: "We have no plans for putting up taxes... It is not necessary for us, and I have no plans to put up other taxes in order to achieve that [cut the basic rate]... We got the last 5p off without making adjustments in other taxes. We neither need to, nor do we have plans to do so."

Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, backed Mr Lamont by labelling Neil

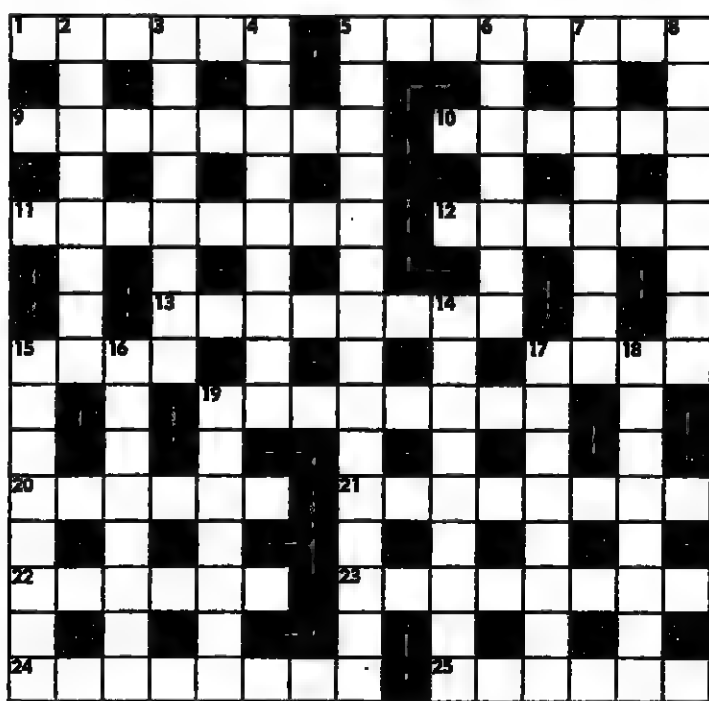
Kinnock "an enemy of lower taxes", and by alleging that a million more higher-rate payers would suffer from his decision to lower the threshold for Labour's planned 50 per cent top rate from £40,000 to £30,000.

Labour scorned the Tories' "bogus" claims, insisting that it would not raise the basic rate of tax and that the 50 per cent rate would come in substantially above £30,000.

John Smith, shadow Chancellor, said: "Quite a number of City commentators said a few months ago not to take the absurd calculations which the Conservative party had made on Labour's programme at all seriously. They were right."

Lamont's attack, page 2
Ivor Crewe, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,808



ACROSS

- Short-tailed creature of ancient date in ark? (6)
- Individual mince-pies one left to cook (8)
- Goodness of this land, according to John of Gaunt? (4,4)
- Stars introducing Sunday prayer (4)
- He may decline the classical way (8)
- Unknown phrase?
- At heart, the writer sounds like a Chartist (8)
- Confirmed as essentially beautiful to Keats? (4)
- Long range of social psychiatrists (4)
- Cultivated tiny tree of heaven? (8)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,807

CHARLED RAPPORT
A R I A A O R
CABLE SANDSTONE
K T G P O S U L
N THEM MAIN PERIL
N R S S A S P I A T I S
P R E S I D E N T S A M O A
O N N P T
STAFF CROWNED
S O L H N P A R
E N C H I L A D A O M A H A
S R N I G O T O C
SHATTER EARNEST

- Gifted county opener means to gain advantage (6)
- Turning out English translation (8)
- These fledglings may become long-headed (10)
- Refined sailor and giant, perhaps, of the theatre? (8)
- Punch in a pastoral picture by George Stubbs (8)
- Cold and damp but spacious, we hear (6)

DOWN

- Carmen is one over the hill as a machine? (8)
- Couch bearing for delivery (8)
- Remembering about a dip in the river? (4)
- He helps to carry in the cases (9,4)
- The last train? (7)
- Defective hearing of one in cold wind (8)
- Decade in which Einstein developed? (8)
- Spruce trees roughly in three months? (9)
- Diner in the afternoon around Derby, for example (3-5)
- Sometimes felt to be inferior to Brussels (8)
- Lower part of Strathclyde region? (8)
- Redundant expression of eccentric Salop men (8)
- Complex girl has chosen artist (7)

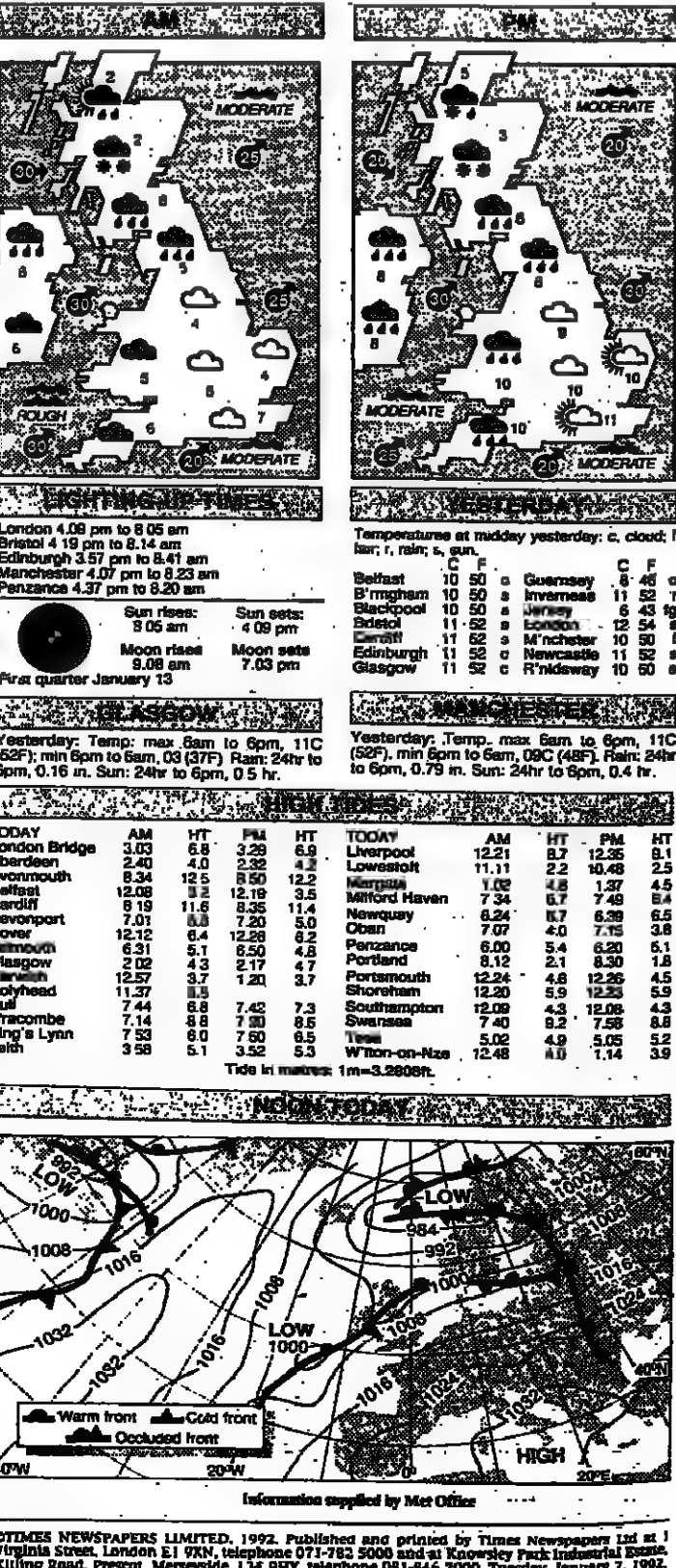
Concise Crossword, page 15

WEATHER
Most parts will have another mild and very windy day, but colder air with wintry showers is already affecting most of northern Scotland, giving snow on the mountains. Much of southern Scotland will have a wet day, and Wales and the West Country can also expect rain, some of it heavy, by the afternoon. The rest of England will remain mainly dry, with a few sunny intervals, more especially in the east. Outlook: rain spreading southwards.

ABROAD				DOMESTIC			
MIDDAY: temperature, dew-point, fog-level, sun; wind-speed, direction; (afternoon: rain, cloud)				Sun Rain in C Mmi F			
C	F	W	C	C	F	W	C
Algeria	13	55	F	Majorca	14	57	M
Alexandria	14	57	F	Malaga	14	57	M
Athens	15	59	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahia	16	61	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	16	61	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	17	63	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	18	64	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	18	64	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	19	66	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	20	68	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	21	70	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	22	72	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	23	74	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	24	76	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	25	77	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	26	79	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	27	81	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	28	82	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	29	84	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	30	86	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	31	88	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	32	90	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	33	91	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	34	93	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	35	95	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	36	97	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	37	99	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	38	100	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	39	102	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	40	104	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	41	106	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	42	108	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	43	110	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	44	112	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	45	114	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	46	116	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	47	118	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	48	120	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	49	122	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	50	124	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	51	126	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	52	128	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	53	130	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	54	132	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	55	134	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	56	136	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	57	138	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	58	140	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	59	142	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	60	144	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	61	146	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	62	148	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	63	150	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	64	152	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	65	154	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	66	156	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	67	158	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	68	160	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	69	162	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	70	164	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	71	166	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	72	168	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	73	170	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	74	172	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	75	174	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	76	176	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	77	178	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	78	180	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	79	182	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	80	184	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	81	186	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	82	188	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	83	190	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	84	192	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	85	194	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	86	196	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	87	198	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	88	200	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	89	202	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	90	204	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	91	206	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	92	208	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	93	210	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	94	212	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	95	214	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	96	216	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	97	218	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	98	220	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	99	222	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	100	224	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	101	226	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	102	228	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	103	230	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	104	232	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	105	234	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	106	236	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	107	238	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	108	240	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	109	242	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	110	244	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	111	246	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	112	248	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	113	250	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	114	252	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	115	254	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	116	256	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	117	258	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	118	260	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	119	262	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	120	264	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	121	266	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	122	268	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	123	270	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	124	272	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	125	274	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	126	276	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	127	278	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	128	280	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	129	282	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	130	284	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	131	286	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	132	288	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	133	290	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	134	292	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	135	294	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	136	296	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	137	298	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	138	300	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	139	302	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	140	304	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	141	306	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	142	308	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	143	310	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	144	312	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	145	314	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	146	316	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	147	318	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	148	320	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	149	322	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	150	324	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	151	326	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	152	328	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	153	330	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	154	332	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	155	334	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	156	336	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	157	338	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	158	340	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	159	342	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	160	344	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	161	346	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	162	348	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	163	350	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	164	352	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	165	354	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	166	356	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	167	358	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	168	360	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	169	362	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	170	364	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	171	366	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	172	368	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	173	370	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	174	372	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	175	374	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	176	376	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	177	378	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	178	380	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	179	382	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	180	384	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	181	386	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	182	388	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	183	390	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	184	392	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	185	394	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	186	396	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	187	398	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	188	400	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	189	402	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	190	404	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	191	406	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	192	408	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	193	410	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	194	412	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	195	414	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	196	416	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	197	418	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	198	420	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	199	422	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	200	424	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	201	426	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	202	428	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	203	430	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	204	432	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	205	434	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	206	436	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	207	438	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	208	440	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	209	442	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	210	444	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	211	446	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	212	448	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	213	450	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	214	452	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	215	454	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	216	456	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	217	458	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	218	460	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	219	462	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay	220	464	C	Malta	14	57	M
Buenos Aires	221	466	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bahran	222	468	C	Malta	14	57	M
Bombay</							

TOURIST RATES			
From	To	From	To
Australia	2.48	Bank	2.33
Belgium	1.90	Brussels	1.90
Canada	2.25	Calcutta	2.09
Denmark	1.85	Canton	1.85
Finland	1.85	Cebu	1.85
France	1.85	Colon	1.85
Germany	2.08	Hankow	2.08
Greece	2.08	Hong Kong	2.08
Holland	1.85	Kobe	1.85
Ireland	1.85	London	1.85
Italy	2.08	Lyons	2.08
Japan	2.33	Manila	2.33
Netherlands	1.85	Medan	1.85
Norway	1.85	Peking	1.85
Portugal	2.08	Rangoon	2.08
Spain	1.85	Singapore	1.85
Sweden	2.08	Sourabaya	2.08
Switzerland	1.85	Tientsin	1.85
Turkey	2.08	Yokohama	2.08
USA	2.33		
Yugoslavia	1.85		

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as applied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.



Weather is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

COAL CLASH

Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's commercial director, may leave after a clash over strategy with Neil Clarke, the corporation's new chairman. Page 21

ROLLS LINK

Rolls-Royce is to team up with Textron Lycoming, America's third largest aero engine maker, to upgrade the 747 engine to power McDonnell Douglas's new mid-range twin jet, the MD-95. Page 21

CLOSURE

Tony Haggood, chief executive of Buzl, has closed the loss-making American food distribution operation, acquired in 1987 for \$40 million. Times, Page 20

TRADE STAKES

Cardo Engineering said a 7.9 per cent stake in Arthur Lee and a 7 per cent holding in Wellman were "trade investments". Cardo's pre-tax profits fell 33 per cent to £2.87 million in the half-year ended September. Times, Page 20

GATT HOPES

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, hopes to break the GATT deadlock at talks with European commissioners in Washington today. Page 20

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8740 (+0.0220)
German mark 2.8522 (-0.0045)
Exchange Index 91.8 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1906.5 (+5.1)
FT-SE 100 2493.2 (-10.9)
New York Dow Jones 3202.82 (+1.34)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23801.18 (+817.41)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month eligible bills 10%
US Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury bill 3.85-3.85%
30-year bonds 106%
30-year bonds 106%

CURRENCIES

London: £1.8775
New York: \$1.8775
DM 1.5190
SwF 1.3485
FF 16.45
Yen 124.07
ECU 1.3905
SDR 1.304728

GOLD

London: £361.15 pm \$349.40
AM \$349.30-349.50 (£188.40-188.50)
New York: \$348.55-349.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$18.70 bbl (\$18.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Britain's car sales suffer record slump

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S car industry suffered its worst slump last year, according to figures to be published today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Sales of new cars were fewer than 1.6 million, the lowest since 1982, 20 per cent down on 1990 and a 30 per cent drop on the record sales year of 1989.

The figures will be used as further evidence that Britain's biggest manufacturing industry has borne the brunt of the recession, hastened by swingeing budget measures imposed by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, last March.

Industry executives now want Mr Lamont to consider lifting the tax burden on company car ownership and abolishing the special tax of 10 per cent on each new car sold.

as he goes into meetings with Treasury officials to decide on budget measures for this year.

Geoffrey Whalen, chairman of Peugeot Talbot, Britain's fourth biggest car company, said yesterday he hoped the Chancellor would give the industry hope for a 1992 recovery from "the worst two-year slump in the history of the motor industry".

Initial industry estimates expect sales to recover to between 1.7 million and 1.8 million this year unless the Chancellor is prepared to announce measures that will help revive sales.

Mr Whalen's company provided one of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy year. Peugeot Talbot sales fell by just 6.6 per cent compared with the 20 per cent industry average.

Market share also reached

a record 7.2 per cent, compared with 6.1 per cent in 1990 and just 1.9 per cent in 1984.

While profits are not expected to meet 1990's £107 million, Mr Whalen said they would be "acceptable" against the background of recession and the big financial losses being incurred elsewhere in the industry.

The strong performance has encouraged the French parent business, PSA of France, to speed up plans to build a new mid-range model at Ryton, Coventry, which could be in production within a year.

The new car is a reward for Ryton's rapid efficiency improvements during the Eighties. While production has faltered this year because of home sales, exports of more than 60,000 cars were 67.5 per cent of total output from the Coventry plant.

DAF, the Dutch truck and van maker, has given warning that a return to profits will be delayed until the second half of this year because of the depressed state of the European truck market and higher interest rates in The Netherlands and Germany (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

In a gloomy new year message, the company said "1991 was a particularly bad year for DAF", with vehicle production down to 50,900, compared with 54,500 a year earlier.

The sharp fall in production was a response to the need to reduce high inventory levels, as a result of which deliveries fell at a slower rate and stood at 51,185, down from 55,785 in 1990.

In the statement, the company said: "The board of management cannot therefore yet indicate at this early stage a final financial outcome for 1991, but the loss for DAF in 1991 will be very considerable."

Shareholders are told that restructuring costs have increased and that additional provisions are necessary.

In Britain, the company employs just over 6,000 staff, slightly fewer than at its main plant at Eindhoven. The main British plant at Leyland and Chorley, Lancashire, and the Albion axle factory in Glasgow were particularly affected by job cuts last year. DAF operates another plant in Birmingham and a marketing operation at Thame, Oxfordshire.

Ratner near to stepping down



Besieged: Gerald Ratner, the chairman of the jewellery group, yesterday

Shares close at low of 21 1/2 p

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND JON ASHWORTH

GERALD Ratner, besieged chairman and chief executive of Ratners Group, the ailing jewellery group, is poised to step down as chairman. A new chairman for the group has been lined up and is waiting in the wings. His identity may be revealed when Ratners gives details of its Christmas trading to the London Stock Exchange on Friday.

Mr Ratner, who spent yesterday in meetings with his directors, refused to comment on the pressure on him to step down. He told journalists, who had gathered at the Ratners' head office in Mayfair, London, that a full statement would be made on Friday. There is some speculation that he may also be forced to give up the role of chief executive.

The shares dropped to 18p yesterday, before rebounding to 21 1/2 p, an all time closing low. At current levels, Mr Ratner's stake in the company is worth £174,000 against £1.5 million in April last year.

Yesterday's all-day board meeting was ostensibly to discuss Christmas sales, which are believed to be down between 30 per cent and 40 per cent on last Christmas. The board is also likely to have outlined plans to close up to 100 branches of Ratners in Britain. The group is preparing to meet its bankers in the next few days. A spokeswoman for Barclays Bank, lead banker to Ratners Group, said no large meeting of all the group's bankers had yet taken place.

The group has to find £32 million in the current year to pay a £57 million put option on its convertible eurobonds and to repay a £25 million tranche of debt. Both are due in the autumn. Ratners' bankers will want to establish whether the group needs to extend its banking facilities as well as renegotiate its banking covenants.

Current facilities of about £450 million might prove adequate, but Ratners could find itself short of cash in the autumn after repayments have been made and when it is building up stocks for the crucial Christmas period.

Stock market, page 22
High street Midas, page 23

Sterling stays vulnerable despite a firmer opening

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound comfortably rode out the first day this year with the Japanese market trading again, but currency analysts expect sterling to come under pressure soon if the dollar loses more ground against the mark.

The reopening of Tokyo was expected to expose the pound to the global market and test the government's resolve to defend it. However, the market was very thin because of a holiday in continental Europe. Despite the pound's firmer tone this year, dealers consider it vulnerable, given the small interest rate differential between the UK and Germany, the weak economic background, and the government's poor showing in the opinion polls.

At the Bank of England close at 4pm, sterling stood at DM2.8522, compared with DM2.8567 on Friday. Against the declining dollar, the pound jumped more than 2 cents to \$1.8740. Its trade-weighted index ended 0.2 higher at 91.6. Fears are growing that the dollar, which shed about 2.3 pence to go below DM 1.52, could fall back towards its 1991 low of DM 1.4430.

With Madrid shut, there was no official trade in pesos, forcing the market to use an estimate of sterling's effective ERM floor. During the morning, the pound dropped to about two thirds of a penny from the theoretical floor, but the gap widened later. Final figures confirmed

that M0, the narrow money supply measure, grew an annual 2.9 per cent in November, picking up from the 2.6 per cent annual rise in October. The bank and building society lending element of M4, the broad money measure, was revised down to £5.5 billion from £5.7 billion. Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the figures suggested a rising trend in consumer spending, but that recent notes data

pointed to renewed slowdown. A breakdown showed that the pickup was flattered by large rises in coins and bankers' balances. British Bankers' Association data showed that lending for consumption in the three months to the end of November rose by a marginal £101 million and compared with a £415 million increase in the previous three-month period. Borrowing on credit cards was only £23 million higher.

Disney executive joins Laura Ashley

BY MATTHEW BOND

LAURA Ashley, the fashion and home furnishings group, has brought in a top Walt Disney executive to head its North American retail operation.

Donna Moore, aged 51, joins Laura Ashley after four years as senior vice-president at Disney Stores, a subsidiary of Walt Disney.

Ms Moore has been brought in as president of Laura Ashley's American retail division by Jim Maxxina, who took over as group chief executive last July. He said:

"We are thrilled to have Donna Moore join our new global management team. Her background with Walt Disney gives her a unique insight into brand marketing to add to her extensive operating experience."

Ms Moore said she was excited to be joining the group at a "pivotal time". "Laura Ashley has an outstanding market position in North America. My task will be to build on that position while improving operational effectiveness," she said.



Moore: "pivotal time"

Windsor safari park hunts buyer

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EVEN Boris the baby Hippo has now felt the cruel winds of the recession. Themes International, the leisure group which owns Windsor Safari Park, fell into receivership yesterday, leaving the fate of lions, giraffes and zebras in the hands of Cork Gully, the insolvency specialists.

Before animal rights campaigners storm into Berkshire to rescue Boris and his friends from their insolvent manager, however, Cork Gully and the Royal Bank of Scotland, Themes' main bank, are taking pains to stress that the welfare of the animals is safe in their hands.

Chris Barlow and Ian Bond, partners from Cork Gully, are looking for a buyer for the park, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. The park, with its Kilimanjaro toboggan run, the African Queen riverboat ride, and even the Bongo burger bar, is likely to be

sold to the highest bidder. In the meantime, Windsor will continue to operate normally, thus allowing Boris, one of the few hippopotami born in captivity, to impress his audiences.

The 142-acre safari park is one of the largest of its kind in Europe. The park owns more than 600 creatures of all shapes and sizes from all over the world. There are llamas, sea lions and butterflies, as well as the more predictable lions and tigers.

Mr Barlow said the safari park was a unique asset. "We are certainly planning to keep it going for the foreseeable future — for months rather than weeks — since it needs to be marketed internationally to ensure that we get the best price for it."

The park is thought to make losses during the winter when visitors are rather scarce, but profits from the summer crowds.

Cork Gully has won the support of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Themes' main banker, to fund the park during the

winter while it searches for a buyer. Themes asked the Royal Bank of Scotland to bring in receivers after negotiations to sell the safari park fell through and the group could no longer service debts estimated at more than £40 million. The company bought Windsor in 1988 and has spent millions of pounds building the rides and amusements.

Apart from the safari park, Themes owns a diverse collection of leisure businesses. Ten Hollywood Bowl bowling alleys will also continue to operate.

Cork Gully says, however, that it is reviewing the "financial and commercial position" of the other businesses. These include Bygone Times, reputedly the largest antiques market in Europe at Ecclestone in Lancashire, and a paddle steamer in Rotterdam. Overall the group has 1,200 employees. Last night Cork Gully's accountants were still uncovering the full extent of the group's assets.

London Zoo vote, Page 18

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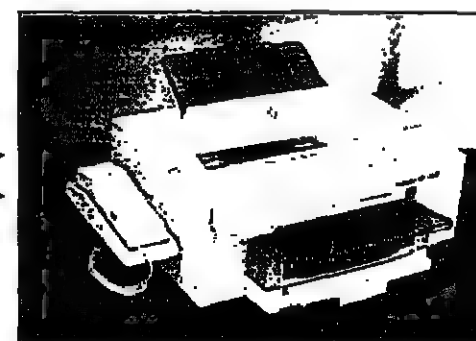
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Coal sales chief in dispute over his future

By ROSS TITMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal yesterday launched an advertising campaign claiming the corporation is "tapping the richest seam of all — the hidden talents of our workforce".

At the same time, it emerged that the corporation is locked in a dispute with Malcolm Edwards, its outspoken commercial director, over his future.

Mr Edwards, aged 58, earns more than £70,000 and has a contract that runs until March 1993. But his public campaign to highlight the strategic importance of indigenous coal production and willingness to float the idea of an employee buyout of British Coal appears to have brought him into conflict with Neil Clarke, the corporation's new chairman.

Mr Clarke is understood to favour a softy-softy response to the threat posed to the business by the rapid shift toward use of gas and import-

ed coal to fuel power generation. Last month, Mr Clarke appointed Andrew Horsler, previously joint number two in the corporation's commercial department, as director general of marketing, reporting direct to the chairman.

British Coal last night declined to comment on Mr Edwards' future. Sources within the corporation suggested that Mr Edwards had been unwilling to see through the negotiation of new contracts with British Coal's two biggest customers, National Power and PowerGen, the generating companies.

However, *The Times* understands that Mr Edwards had been determined to negotiate draft agreements. After 35 years with British Coal, Mr Edwards had made no secret of his enthusiasm for remaining involved in the coal industry whether or not the Conservatives carry through the pledge of Cecil Parkinson, former energy secretary, to make it the "ultimate privatisation".

Mr Edwards' solicitor, Denise Kingsmill, of DJ Freeman, said: "Mr Edwards has been sidelined. He would very much like to stay and to have his duties restored to him."

There have been no allegations made against him, save that his profile is too high. Everybody's view in the industry is that he is the best man in Europe to sell coal. John Waksham, the energy secretary, renewed Mr Edwards' contract only last spring.

Ms Kingsmill added: "Mr Edwards has served under four previous chairmen and they all speak extremely highly of him." Ms Kingsmill said British Coal was seeking to impose restrictive covenants on Mr Edwards to prevent him working in the coal industry for 18 months.

British Coal said it could not discuss Mr Edwards' situation because the matter was in the hands of solicitors.

AG Barr fizzes 8% higher to £4.75m



Soft drinks cheer: Robin Barr, chairman of AG Barr, said consumer confidence was still fragile

Insurance settlement adds sparkle to result

By JONATHAN PRYNN

AN INSURANCE claim settlement of £601,000, taken above the line, helped AG Barr, the maker of the Iron-Bru and Tizer soft drink brands, to an 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £4.75 million for the year to October 26.

However, the underlying trading profits were down by £368,000, at £5.66 million, reflecting the impact of the poor summer weather.

A £662,000 charge relating to the restructuring of the company's production and distribution arrangements was taken below the line as an extraordinary item. Robin Barr, the chairman, said that consumer confi-

dence was still "relatively fragile", although the Barr brands continued to show growth.

The increased level of marketing expenditure would continue in the current year, he said, adding that "we look forward to a further increase in our share of the UK soft drinks market". Mr Barr said he did not believe that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the carbonated soft drinks market, which was published in August, would have much impact on the company or its competitors.

A final 4.377p dividend makes a 5.46p payout for the year, a rise of 5 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tighter cost control boosts Platignum

THE loss of a large Iraqi pen order during the Gulf war contributed to an 11 per cent decline in sales to £8.9 million at the half-way stage at Platignum, the pen and furniture maker. However, tighter control of costs and working capital resulted in a return to profits for the six months to end September. Pre-tax profits were £192,000 compared with a £331,000 loss for the same period in 1990.

An extraordinary £356,000 charge relates to the disposal in October of Orvish Highfields, the group's loss-making serviced office centre subsidiary. The company said that it anticipated a further improvement in profitability despite the absence of any real upturn in the UK economy. It is considering a number of acquisition opportunities. There is once again no interim dividend on either the ordinary or the preference shares.

Soundtracs recovers

SOUNDTRACS, the USM-quoted professional audio equipment maker, has reported virtually unchanged pre-tax profits of £545,699 for the year to November 6. Sales were marginally up at £3.86 million. The final dividend is maintained at 1.35p, making an unchanged 2.2p payout for the year. The results reflect a strong second-half recovery, after interim profits fell 48 per cent to £195,000. Sales rose 53 per cent in the second half. The company has moved all its production to new site in Glenrothes, Fife, leaving only central services, storage and packing at the complex in Surbiton, Surrey. The balance sheet remained strong with negative gearing at the year end.

Barlows to buy

BARLows, the Cheshire property group run by Nicholas Berry, has agreed to buy a Manchester office building from the Bank of England for £3.25 million. The 12-storey building adjoins the Bank's Manchester branch and has effectively been acquired freehold, as the building's lease has 174 years to run. The building is mainly let to Arthur Andersen, the accountant, which pays a net rent of just over £200,000 a year. However, Arthur Andersen has agreed to take a new 30-year lease covering most of the building once Barlows has completed a floor-by-floor refurbishment. The Bank of England will take a long lease on the building's ground and basement floors.

Engineers' shares suspended

Shares in two engineering companies, Bromsgrove Industries and GW Thornton, were suspended yesterday, prompting speculation that the two companies planned a closer association.

The speculation was fuelled by the suspensions being announced at the same time and in an identical form. Although the announcements came almost four hours after the market opened, both shares were suspended, as changed with Bromsgrove at 131p and GW Thornton at 150p.

At those prices, Bromsgrove is capitalised at around £56 million, more than five times the size of Thornton.

Inveresk pays buyout debt

Inveresk, the paper-making company, has repaid over £25 million of debt taken on 14 months ago when the Inveresk management bought the company from Georgia Pacific, its American parent. Some £3.3 million of mezzanine finance has been repaid, together with £22 million of senior debt.

To replace these facilities, a £20 million committed revolving credit facility has been put in place at a rate of one percentage point over Libor. The balance of the £38 million consideration paid to Georgia-Pacific was £13 million of equity, with Morgan Grenfell Development Capital the lead investor.

Jessup bullish

Alan Jessup, chairman of Jessups, the car dealer, told shareholders at the annual general meeting yesterday that the company's performance for the year to date is ahead of expectations. He said this was particularly pleasing against the background of reduced demand for new vehicles.

Key trusts sold

The National & Provincial Building Society has bought Key Investments, the unit trust company, from Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management. The six funds have £48 million under management and 11,000 unitholders.

Rolls offers engine for McDonnell jet

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ROLLS-ROYCE is to offer an updated version of its Tay engine to power the new McDonnell Douglas mid-range twin jet, the MD-95.

Textron-Lycoming, America's third largest aero engine maker, will be involved in developing the new variant and supplying components. The Tay 670 programme will be the first collaboration between Lycoming and Rolls-Royce.

The memorandum of understanding agreed between Rolls-Royce and McDonnell is a key step to ensuring Rolls engines are compatible with the aircraft McDonnell is developing. The MD-95,



Turner: ideal engine

which will be assembled in China, replaces McDonnell's DC-9 aircraft. If the new plane shares the DC-9's success, the memorandum holds the prospect of large-scale orders for Rolls.

The agreement to provide engines for the MD-95 comes just two months after McDonnell and Rolls reached a similar deal to ensure Rolls' Trent engine is available to power McDonnell's next big long-haul plane, the MD-12 trijet.

Frank Turner, Rolls' director for civil engines, said the Tay 670 would be an ideal size for the MD-95, providing power for a low weight with good fuel efficiency and range. It would also be exceptionally quiet.

The Tay 670 will offer 18,000lbs of thrust, an increase of 3,000lbs over the existing Tay 650 model, which powers the Dutch Fokker 100 aircraft. Rolls already has BMW and Volvo as collaborative partners on the Tay programme.

Orders and options for Tay already exceed 1,800 engines. Tays have notched up over 750,000 hours since entering service in 1987.

EC looks at Steelty tie to Tarmac

By MARTIN WALLER

THE European Commission is investigating the plan by Tarmac and Steelty to merge their building materials operations for possible breaches of Community competition law.

The link-up is formally on ice for the duration of the hostile £580 million bid for Steelty from Redland, another building materials group.

Both parties to the merger said the European Commission competition enquiry was entirely expected and came after lengthy submissions to Brussels on the effects of the deal.

The commission has a month to decide if it would create an excessive concentration of the market which disadvantaged competitors. If it does, the commission can launch a longer enquiry, which could eventually result in the banning of modification of the merger.

Steelty has said in the defence document, launched at the weekend, that it will not ask shareholders to vote on the Tarmac deal during the duration of the Redland bid.

Software piracy costs Europe \$4.5bn

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES and individuals who copy computer programs without paying for them are costing the European software industry \$4.46 billion a year.

A survey on behalf of the Software Publishers Association (SPA) and the Business Software Alliance (BSA), two trade associations formed to fight software piracy, claims annual losses in western Europe have climbed from \$2.81 billion in 1988 to \$4.46 billion in 1990, a rise of nearly 60 per cent.

The findings, based on a comparison of sales of personal computers and sales of software, mirror results published in August last year on the level of software theft in America.

Germany and Austria, where piracy rose 125 per cent from \$489 million in 1988 to \$1.1 billion in 1990, were the biggest infringers of software copyright. Only 19 per cent of Macintosh and 24 per cent of IBM and IBM-compatible

software sold in the two countries is deemed to have been purchased legally.

Germany and Austria are followed by France, up 90 per cent from \$418 million to \$799 million, and the Benelux countries, up 51 per cent from \$302 million to \$456 million.

In Italy, where an anti-piracy effort has been underway, a small rise of about 10 per cent was reported, with losses up from \$307 million in 1988 to \$339 million in 1990.

The United Kingdom and Ireland showed a 25 per cent rise in losses, from \$486 million to \$607 million.

Myriam De Greef, European research director of the SPA, said: "Software piracy remains a huge international problem for the software industry. It is a problem of growing magnitude. The increase in revenue lost to piracy alone was larger than the 1990 revenues of all but one company in the industry."

Findings from the study, claimed to be the most in-depth ever, might even be underplaying the true extent of software

piracy in western Europe, the organisations claim.

This is because the loss estimates are based on the number of new personal computers sold each year and do not take into account software bought for older machines.

"Assuming that some of the current year software is sold for use on older machines, the ratio of software and hardware sold would decline, thereby reflecting a much larger estimated loss from piracy," the report says.

News of the findings comes as a settlement is expected this week in a case of alleged piracy at Mirror Group Newspapers. A statement of claim, alleging that software was not only copied illegally but that the piracy was widespread and carried out with the knowledge of management, was filed in the High Court on December 16.

Brad Smith, of BSA, said several other British companies, and around 150 Europe-wide, were currently under investigation for suspected illegal copying.

New Issue

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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سكوتيا من الال

Small firms endangered

January has come in with a roar, but it was only the roar of inmates greeting the receivers at Windsor Safari Park. There could hardly be a neater image of 1992 for seasonal economic pessimists. For would-be visitors, things could be worse. Far from heralding a diaspora of animals, the appointment of a receiver suggests that the banks think leisure spending will recover one day and that the assets of Themes International can be sold as a going concern. The latest survey of receiverships from KPMG Peat Marwick suggests that the flood tide may have reached its new post-war high water mark. The flood is not moderating because business is getting any better. The banks, already facing £6.5 billion of loan losses, see few buyers for manufacturing or retail assets. They might as well hold on and try to nurse their debtors back to health, or at least some continuing life as amputees, rather than crystallise more losses their own balance sheets can ill afford.

This would be good news, if late. Unfortunately, it seems to apply only to more substantial concerns where there are tangible assets to receive and possibly save. The banks may have recovered from their earlier panic, when many stretched but viable smaller firms were pushed out of business by having agreed overdraft limits cut on short-sighted general orders from head office. There is, however, still a noticeable difference between the receivership figures, up 56 per cent, and the much larger total numbers of business failures, including personal bankruptcies and forced liquidations, which rose 65 per cent to almost 48,000 last year.

In contrast to receiverships, overall business failures accelerated from an average 130 a day during the whole of last year to 199 a day in the last quarter. Thousands more smaller businesses with a trading future could be pushed over the edge before the Budget by tax bills relating to balmier days. Both the Inland Revenue and the banks should make sure this does not happen.

Wages of Unsinn

This year's German wage round promises to be one of the toughest since the war and one which could have severe implications for the rest of Europe. Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, has already linked the level of wage settlements directly with interest rate policy later this year. Germany, according to Professor Schlesinger, stands at an economic crossroads. If settlements exceed 5 per cent, interest rates could rise again all over Europe through the exchange-rate mechanism and would at best remain at their present high level for an uncomfortably long time. The Bundesbank seems prepared to continue its fight to defend the mark against inflation, even at the cost of a post-European recession.

Union claims for pay rises above 10 per cent and a reduction in working hours may be unrealistic, but no more than they have been during the last ten years, during which actual settlements have been reassuringly moderate. The unions therefore have a point when they accuse the government and the Bundesbank of talking the economy into recession. There are some signs that this has already happened. The German model of pay settlements has proved successful over time, although not necessarily in every single year. Unions need to take into account the country's rather special economic circumstances at present, but the greatest threat to the economy appears not to come from greedy workers, but from those for whom the fight against inflation has grown from a laudably consistent objective into an obsession.

As Gerald Ratner fights to save his jewellery store empire, Gillian Bowditch traces its rapid rise and sudden decline

The gift appears to be wearing thin on Britain's glitziest business, Ratners Group is battling for its corporate life this week and the City is waiting to see if Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive, can keep a grip on the empire he created.

The share price is at an all-time low of 21½p, compared with 398p in October 1987. In the last year, the shares have fallen from 180p. The group looks likely to breach at least one of the covenants on its banking loans: £82 million is due for repayment by this autumn; and Christmas 1991 was the worst the group has ever experienced.

Mr Ratner has always been a showman and he is currently walking a tightrope and juggling half a dozen balls. From a spectator's position there appears to be no safety net, but it would be wrong to write him off just yet. More than anything else, Gerald Ratner enjoys surprising people.

Some in the City were surprised by the pace at which he expanded and that, until now, he had ridden out the recession better than competition. The catastrophe in the business has been sudden and deadly. In the year to January 1991, Ratners reported pre-tax profits of £112 million, up 3.5 per cent. For the year just about to end, James Capel is predicting a loss of £35 million.

The writing was on the wall last year when costs started to get out of control. They accelerated at 20 per cent while some store sales in the main UK business grew just over 10 per cent. At the same time, the recession took its toll.

In 1991, according to Verdict, the market research group, jewellery was the worst performing retail sector. Ratners, with 30 per cent of the UK market, suffered more than most. Nor was any comfort to be gained from the group's US business. The recession on the other side of the Atlantic was, if anything, worse than in the UK. There, however, problems were exacerbated by the demise of Zales, the largest American jewellery group, which in an effort to stave off bankruptcy slashed 30 per cent off prices.

However, the issue that may prove to be the final nail in the Ratners' coffin was a speech Mr Ratner made to the Institute of Directors on April 23. As the last speaker of the day, he decided to live up to the proceedings.

The jokes were all ones he had made before the earnings which fell for less than the price of a prawn sandwich but probably do not last as long: the cut-glass sherry decanter set for £4.95 that Mr Ratner light-heartedly described as "total crap". The remark was much misquoted, but the damage was done.

The remarks were made to a

much wider audience than had heard them before. By the next day, the tabloid headlines were screaming "Ratner" and sales at the main Ratners chain started to slump.

On its own, the damage done by the speech could have been contained. Coupled with the recession and the fact that Mr Ratner's credibility in the City had been damaged by a series of expensive acquisitions funded by paper, it brought the company to its knees.

The creation of Ratners Group epitomises the spirit of British business in the Eighties. After leaving school, Mr Ratner joined the family business, started in 1949 by Leslie Ratner, his father.

By the time Gerald joined, there were 35 Ratners shops. He claims that if he had not been the boss's son he would have been fired, but by 1982, he had risen from his job as message boy to become joint managing director along with his father — although it was not a successful partnership. Gerald felt he had no power and there were rows. When his father left for a trip to America, Mr Ratner effectively seized control of the business, taking it down market. The first of the ubiquitous red sale posters appeared in shop windows proclaiming that all watches were reduced. Sales started to

take off. Mr Ratner has described ousting his father as "the most difficult takeover I've ever done". In April 1984, aged 35, Mr Ratner became sole managing director. He lost no time launching the business on an aggressive acquisition-driven strategy.

Several small purchases were succeeded by the deal that put Ratners on the map, the £150 million acquisition of H Samuel, the largest British jewellery chain, in May 1986. The deal tripled the number of Ratners stores to over 600.

There was no holding the group back. H Samuel had barely been digested when Mr Ratner bid £340 million for Combined English Stores. He lost the bid but simultaneously asked shareholders for £81 million. Ernest Jones with 61 stores was added and at the same time, Mr Ratner clinched the £126 million acquisition of Sterling stores, the fourth largest jewellery chain in America.

The American deal presented a problem from which most chief executives would have flinched. The group needed a second rights issue in two months, this time for £122 million. The July 1987 rights issue was launched before shareholders

had to decide whether or not they intended to support the May rights issue.

The deal upset institutions who felt Ratners was issuing too much paper. The group's market capitalisation between 1985 and 1987 rose from £15 million to £575 million.

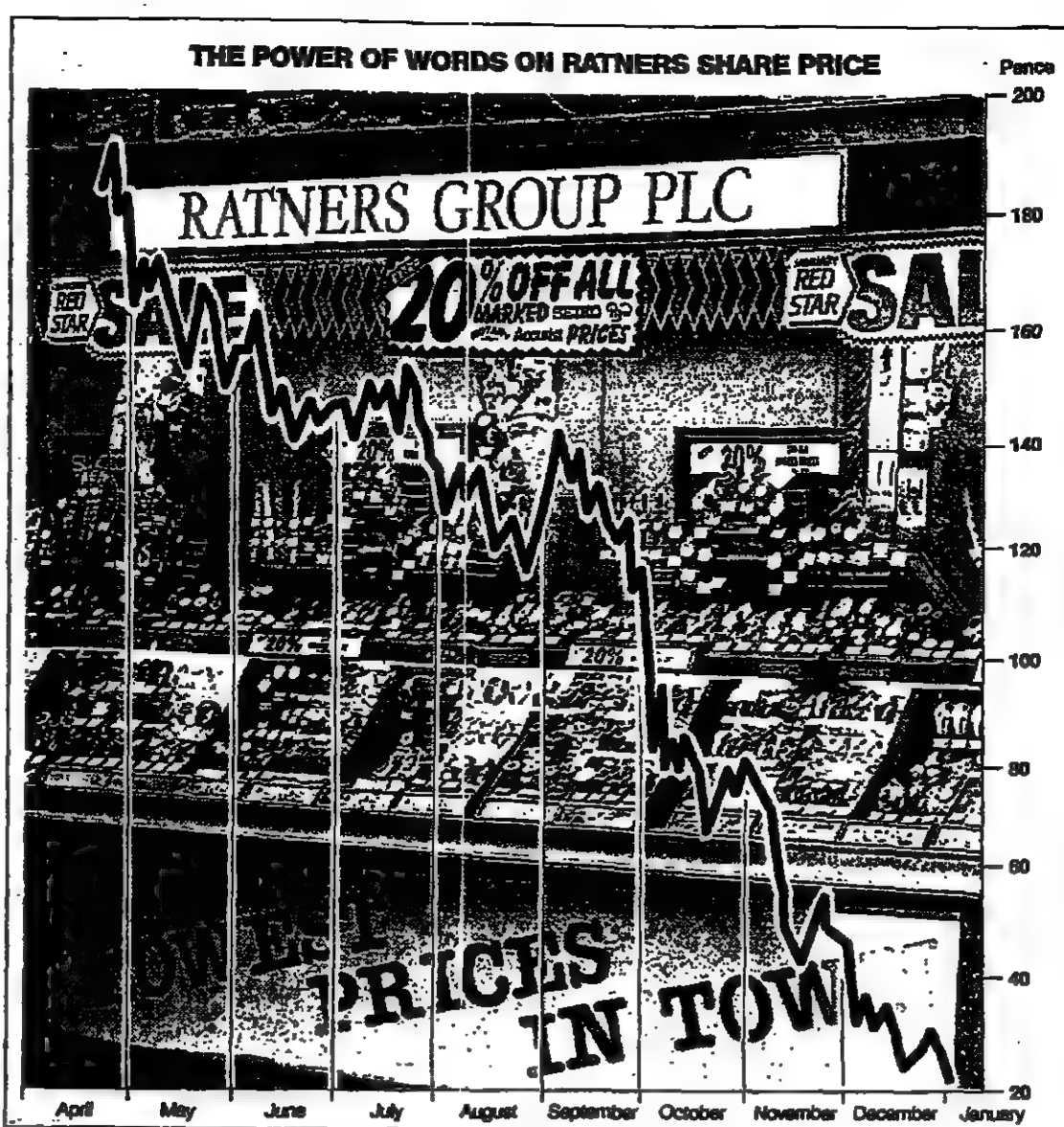
The next upset came when Mr Ratner told shareholders in September 1987 that he would not be issuing any more paper. A month later, he acquired 440 Zales and Salisbury outlets in the UK from Next for £135 million. The deal came gift wrapped in a £80 million one-for-four rights issue. The market was not amused and the issue flopped.

However, the deal that upset the City most was the 1990 acquisition of Kay Jewelers in America for £234 million. Analysts believed Ratners was paying too much and the growth necessary to prevent earnings dilution would not follow.

Mr Ratner has kept his institutional shareholders on the edge of their seats over the last seven years, but despite much grumbling, they have continued to back him. Mr Ratner's credibility account in the City has run dry, however, and there are those who believe a less exciting management style is what Ratners Group needs for the Nineties.

High street Midas who lost his golden touch

Ratner's fortune goes into freefall



The fall in the Ratners share price, which has seen the value of the group drop from over £460 million in April last year to £54 million today, has had a devastating effect on the personal wealth of Gerald Ratner, the group's chairman and chief executive.

His shareholding in Ratners is currently worth only £174,000, having been worth £1.5 million at the time he made his fateful speech to the Institute of Directors in April. His 1.16 million share options are likely to be worthless with the shares at their current level.

Mr Ratner's salary of £615,953 is on the high side for a British boss and is likely to fall in the current year, especially if he yields to pressure and appoints a non-executive chairman, something the institutional shareholders have been pushing for, but which he has so far resisted.

In addition to a town house in London's exclusive Mayfair, just a stone's throw from Ratners Group's plush British headquarters, Mr Ratner owns a riverside home near Maidenhead, Berkshire, where he lives with Moira, his second wife, and his son and daughter. His two daughters from his former marriage are frequent visitors.

He drives a Mercedes sports car and has a chauffeur-driven Bentley for visiting his shops. Mr Ratner presents a totally different image from that of his shops. He wears dark Savile Row suits, crisp white shirts and Hermes ties. His Cartier watch is more than 20 years old and he wears no wedding ring.

His main indulgence is his taste in paintings which he buys at auction. He has a penchant for late 19th century Scandinavian pictures. An oil painting of one of Napoleon's generals dominates his vast office, which is luxuriously furnished.

Mr Ratner has always been one for grabbing opportunities, a practice which, in part, is responsible for his current predicament. He is known for his lack of fear and has been described as reckless, but he also has a lively sense of humour.

In an interview with *The Times* 18 months ago, he said he was driven by the fact that he hates to lose. "I take it personally. If I make the right decisions I'll do better than my competitors," he said. "Whether we beat the City's profit forecasts or not doesn't make much difference to my finances but it does make a lot of difference to my ego and my pride. There it is in one word. Ego."

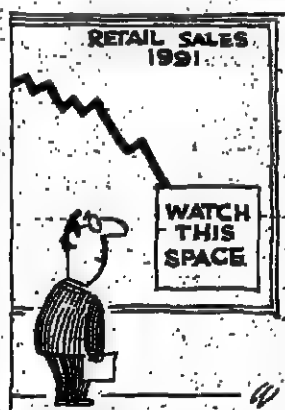
His faux pas at last year's IoD conference has affected him badly. "Every time I see reference to it in the press, it crushes me," he said.

Even at the peak of his career, Mr Ratner had no plans to carry on with the group indefinitely. "I'd like to retire quite young," he told *The Times*. "There will be a time in this business when the qualities that I have won't be the right ones. I hope that someone does to me what I did to my father. I'd love it if my daughter did that."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dancing to a new tune

WHILE highly paid business executives across the country debate the differences between recession and depression, and discuss whether the economy has "bottomed out" or is now entering a "double dip", in Battersea, southwest London, a lone businessman has quietly salvaged an organisation of national significance. David Watchman, who, just over a year ago, became chief executive of the Royal Academy of Dancing, has turned it round from a deficit of £370,000 in 1989-90, to a surplus of £12,000 — its first surplus for four years. Watchman, aged 54, who describes himself as a marketing man, and who previously worked in property, textiles and commercial radio — he remains a non-executive director of Mors, the quoted French electronics firm, and Wesgo, Australia's most profitable radio stations group — has brought about the transformation by imposing tight financial controls, a proper management structure and boosting income. He has done it all without any help from public funds. The Academy, which trains ballet teachers, monitors standards and issues certificates, has persuaded Watchman to sign a five-year service contract. "I had expected the job to last about 12 months but I'm enjoying it so much that I've just signed a new contract," Watchman says. His next move will be to launch an appeal to wipe out £800,000 of debt. From the *City Diary*, in recognition of his valiant efforts, a magnum of Krug Grande Cuvée.



SIGN on a noticeboard at a university campus in Pretoria, South Africa: "This board is reserved for missionary work only. Trespassers will be converted."

Family help

MIKE Walker, the former Hill Samuel financier who this month celebrates his first anniversary at Gresham Trust, a venture capital firm, helped line up the last management buyout of 1991 — and even Mrs Thatcher may benefit. Walker, a director of Gresham Trust, was telephoned by his brother, Andy, a director of Courtaulds Textiles, to ask Gresham to help with the buyout of John Hampden Press, Courtaulds printing and packaging subsidiary. The £2.7 million deal was clinched at lunchtime on New Year's Eve, even though Mike was forced to stand aside at an early stage, because of a possible conflict of interest. Mike, aged 38, joined TSB from County Bank in 1986 to establish a development capital arm and switched to Hill Samuel when it was bought by TSB in October 1987. The connec-

tion with Thatcher? John Hampden, Mike explains, makes the packaging for Marks and Spencer's underwear range, popular with our former leader.

Costly tome

A SWISS company has pulled off something of a coup in Japan: it is publishing the first English language listing of major Japanese businesses. With the businesses numbering about 110,000, the listing runs to five volumes and will also be available on an on-line basis through Dialog, the American database distributor. In the first volume, Haruo Kozuka, the publisher's Japanese representative, refers to international criticism of Japan "for keeping its doors closed from the outside world in business practices. There are a number of invisible trade barriers preventing foreigners from doing business in Japan. A basic hindrance is the language — Japanese."

He fails to mention, however, that an enduring hindrance could be price. The new directory will sell for ¥125,000 (£540) plus postage.

Mint conditions

IT MAY be of little consolation to the nation's retailers, but they might like to know, nevertheless, that the Royal Mint found conditions at Christmas equally as tough. It advertised a series of 22c coins from its 1991 gold sovereign collection as "beautiful presents that can be treasured for many Christmases to come", and produced 1,500 four-coin sets costing £1,175 each and 2,500 three-coin sets at £510

each. "Very limited issues", the Mint said, but clearly not limited enough. A disappointed Royal Mint spokesman admits that it still has "several hundreds left". Exactly how many hundreds he is not prepared to say. "We didn't sell out the 1990 set either," the spokesman adds. Unlike the retailers, however, it is not now planning a January sale. "No, there isn't going to be a sale of the left-overs."

Escape route

GERALD Ratner, the jewellery firm boss, was kind enough to spare a couple of minutes yesterday for pressmen who had gathered outside his headquarters in Stratton Street, Mayfair, in the hope of discovering the outcome of a board meeting. However, pinning him down in the future may prove more difficult. A notice attached to the railings outside his office reads: "London and Edinburgh Trust is applying to the Westminster City Council for planning permission to install on (sic) Means of Escape route over the roof of 15 Stratton Street with associated wire safety lines."

CAROL LEONARD

Lloyds acts on public letter

From Mr John Warner Sir, Following the publication of my letter (November 29) regarding the sudden ending of charges relief on our current account we have received two letters of apology from Lloyds Bank for their "unforgivable mistake" and the relief has been reinstated. You may recall that I had previously written to the bank twice without effect, but a simple letter to you produced instant action.

It is obviously not possible for you to fill your columns with letters of complaint about the treatment of customers by the banks, nor should it be necessary. However, I am grateful that through your good offices we have received satisfaction and can only hope that Lloyds will check that no other customer has been incorrectly treated without further prompting. Thanking you for your help. Yours faithfully, JOHN WARNER, Director, Bois Properties Ltd, Courtlands, 40 Copperkings Lane, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Bank interest

From Mr Barry I. Lewis Sir, Sable M Fanshawe in her letter (January 2) is asking why the banks do not give details of interest on their statements. But they do, at least if you bank with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Whenever my account is debited with interest the statement shows the rate expressed as the percentage over the bank's base rate, which is also shown. Not only that, but my statement tells

TSB and the long-suffering shareholders

From Mr N. S. Smith Sir, The long-suffering TSB shareholders are again being softened up by the article on Hugh Freedberg, the head of Hill Samuel (December 31). It is suggested that Hill Samuel has made a loss on the year of £400 million. For the year ended October 31, 1990 the loss was only £40 million. It will be interesting to learn how the ten-fold increase has developed in one year. The suggestion is that there has been heavy exposure to Brent Walker. It is almost as difficult to understand how Hill Samuel got involved with this outfit as it was for obscure local authorities to find a for-

Share perks

From Mr Denis Pirrie Sir, I was interested to read the article on give-aways for shareholders (Buy the shares and see the world, January 3) because I have for some time wondered how such gifts are justified. I am an old man and own a few shares. I am offered 10 per cent discount to stay in hotels I do not want to visit or spend in sorts of shops on equipment I have forgotten how to use. Another firm offers me £1 or £2 off bottles of wine and spirits

obtainable at off-licences of which there are none locally. I could save a lot were I to take my Rolls across the Channel, but I would never risk myself, my passengers and my old car in darkest Europe where they drive on the wrong side of the road. For each shareholder who can use such facilities there must be dozens or hundreds of individual and corporate shareholders who cannot.

I suppose that, as usual, such schemes are popular with the directors who conceived them and who are

stock market crash on October 19, 1987, when the London market fell by 15 per cent. Even the present chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, has said "TSB paid too much for Hill Samuel" (*The Times*, September 2, 1991).

This is not the only difficulty for TSB, there was the loss of £76 million on the swap options with local authorities. No doubt the next problem to be revealed will be loss on the mortgage and estate agency business.

Yours faithfully, STAN SMITH, 19 Cleasdale Avenue, South Shields, Tyne & Wear.

Most likely to benefit from these probably illegal hand-outs, while the "silent majority" would prefer a larger dividend or learn that the money was to be spent usefully on staff training.

Of course, if there were a firm of undertakers who would offer me a discount on my own funeral I might consider buying a few shares.

Yours faithfully, D. PIRRIE, Flat 3, 14 Grange Gardens, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

THE TIMES RENTALS

LOOKING TO RENT OR WANT TO RENT YOUR PROPERTY? RENTALS APPEAR EVERY WEDNESDAY TO ADVERTISE PHONE 071-481 1986 071-481 4000

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24 EQUITY PRICES

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add the price movements on the overall index and check the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Vox	Electrical	1.00
2	Forest Rowing	Recreation	1.00
3	Lapins	Chemicals	1.00
4	Unigate	Food	1.00
5	Chemring	Industrial	1.00
6	Swansea & Vale	Leisure	1.00
7	Gr. Portland	Property	1.00
8	Laid	Industrial	1.00
9	T & S Stores	Drugs	1.00
10	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	1.00
11	Summit	Leisure	1.00
12	Pluton Group	Leisure	1.00
13	Life Sciences	Medical	1.00
14	Alan New Z	Medical	1.00
15	Seam Health	Medical	1.00
16	Yorkshire W.	Water	1.00
17	Provision	Medical	1.00
18	Torridon	Medical	1.00
19	ORIN	Medical	1.00
20	Tate & Lyle	Food	1.00
21	Anglian Water	Water	1.00
22	Hambro	Banking	1.00
23	Ocean Group	Transport	1.00
24	Raine Ind.	Building	1.00
25	Clackson	Leisure	1.00
26	Perry Gp	Medical	1.00
27	Imperial	Industrial	1.00
28	Landline	Medical	1.00
29	Toddy Ind.	Medical	1.00
30	Unimark	Medical	1.00
31	Unimark	Medical	1.00
32	Unimark	Medical	1.00
33	Unimark	Medical	1.00
34	Unimark	Medical	1.00
35	Unimark	Medical	1.00
36	Unimark	Medical	1.00
37	Unimark	Medical	1.00
38	Unimark	Medical	1.00
39	Unimark	Medical	1.00
40	Unimark	Medical	1.00
41	Unimark	Medical	1.00
42	Unimark	Medical	1.00
43	Unimark	Medical	1.00
44	Unimark	Medical	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your share price for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Week

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs A. Gravestock, of Alfrick, Hereford and Worcester.

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Chg % Yld

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
4	1.00	0.0	0.0
5	1.00	0.0	0.0
6	1.00	0.0	0.0
7	1.00	0.0	0.0
8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
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19	1.00	0.0	0.0
20	1.00	0.0	0.0
21	1.00	0.0	0.0
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27	1.00	0.0	0.0
28	1.00	0.0	0.0
29	1.00	0.0	0.0
30	1.00	0.0	0.0
31	1.00	0.0	0.0
32	1.00	0.0	0.0
33	1.00	0.0	0.0
34	1.00	0.0	0.0
35	1.00	0.0	0.0
36	1.00	0.0	0.0
37	1.00	0.0	0.0
38	1.00	0.0	0.0
39	1.00	0.0	0.0
40	1.00	0.0	0.0
41	1.00	0.0	0.0
42	1.00	0.0	0.0
43	1.00	0.0	0.0
44	1.00	0.0	0.0

BREWERIES

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
4	1.00	0.0	0.0
5	1.00	0.0	0.0
6	1.00	0.0	0.0
7	1.00	0.0	0.0
8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
18	1.00	0.0	0.0
19	1.00	0.0	0.0
20	1.00	0.0	0.0
21	1.00	0.0	0.0
22	1.00	0.0	0.0
23	1.00	0.0	0.0
24	1.00	0.0	0.0
25	1.00	0.0	0.0
26	1.00	0.0	0.0
27	1.00	0.0	0.0
28	1.00	0.0	0.0
29	1.00	0.0	0.0
30	1.00	0.0	0.0
31	1.00	0.0	0.0
32	1.00	0.0	0.0
33	1.00	0.0	0.0
34	1.00	0.0	0.0
35	1.00	0.0	0.0
36	1.00	0.0	0.0
37	1.00	0.0	0.0
38	1.00	0.0	0.0
39	1.00	0.0	0.0
40	1.00	0.0	0.0
41	1.00	0.0	0.0
42	1.00	0.0	0.0
43	1.00	0.0	0.0
44	1.00	0.0	0.0

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
4	1.00	0.0	0.0
5	1.00	0.0	0.0
6	1.00	0.0	0.0
7	1.00	0.0	0.0
8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
18	1.00	0.0	0.0
19	1.00	0.0	0.0
20	1.00	0.0	0.0
21	1.00	0.0	0.0
22	1.00	0.0	0.0
23	1.00	0.0	0.0
24	1.00	0.0	0.0
25	1.00	0.0	0.0
26	1.00	0.0	0.0
27	1.00	0.0	0.0
28	1.00	0.0	0.0
29	1.00	0.0	0.0
30	1.00	0.0	0.0
31	1.00	0.0	0.0
32	1.00	0.0	0.0
33	1.00	0.0	0.0
34	1.00	0.0	0.0
35	1.00	0.0	0.0
36	1.00	0.0	0.0
37	1.00	0.0	0.0
38	1.00	0.0	0.0
39	1.00	0.0	0.0
40	1.00	0.0	0.0
41	1.00	0.0	0.0
42	1.00	0.0	0.0
43	1.00	0.0	0.0
44	1.00	0.0	0.0

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
4	1.00	0.0	0.0
5	1.00	0.0	0.0
6	1.00	0.0	0.0
7	1.00	0.0	0.0
8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
18	1.00	0.0	0.0
19	1.00	0.0	0.0
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22	1.00	0.0	0.0
23	1.00	0.0	0.0
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25	1.00	0.0	0.0
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31	1.00	0.0	0.0
32	1.00	0.0	0.0
33	1.00	0.0	0.0
34	1.00	0.0	0.0
35	1.00	0.0	0.0
36	1.00	0.0	0.0
37	1.00	0.0	0.0
38	1.00	0.0	0.0
39	1.00	0.0	0.0
40	1.00	0.0	0.0
41	1.00	0.0	0.0
42	1.00	0.0	0.0
43	1.00	0.0	0.0
44	1.00	0.0	0.0

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
4	1.00	0.0	0.0
5	1.00	0.0	0.0
6	1.00	0.0	0.0
7	1.00	0.0	0.0
8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
18	1.00	0.0	0.0
19	1.00	0.0	0.0
20	1.00	0.0	0.0
21	1.00	0.0	0.0
22	1.00	0.0	0.0
23	1.00	0.0	0.0
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38	1.00	0.0	0.0
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41	1.00	0.0	0.0
42	1.00	0.0	0.0
43	1.00	0.0	0.0
44	1.00	0.0	0.0

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Chg % Yld

Company	Price	% Chg	% Yld
1	1.00	0.0	0.0
2	1.00	0.0	0.0
3	1.00	0.0	0.0
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8	1.00	0.0	0.0
9	1.00	0.0	0.0
10	1.00	0.0	0.0
11	1.00	0.0	0.0
12	1.00	0.0	0.0
13	1.00	0.0	0.0
14	1.00	0.0	0.0
15	1.00	0.0	0.0
16	1.00	0.0	0.0
17	1.00	0.0	0.0
18	1.00	0.0	0.0
19	1.00	0.0	0.0
20	1.00	0.0	0.0
21	1.00	0.0	0.0
22	1.00	0.0	0.0
23	1.00	0.0	0.0
24	1.00	0.0	0.0
25	1.00	0.0	0.0
26	1.00	0.0	0.0
27	1.00	0.0	0.0
28	1.00	0.0	0.0
29	1.00	0.0	0.0
30	1.00	0.0	0.0
31	1.00	0.0	0.0
32	1.00	0.0	0.0
33	1.00	0.0	0.0
34	1.00	0.0	0.0
35	1.00	0.0	0.0
36	1.00	0.0	0.0
37	1.00	0.0	0.0
38	1.00	0.0	0.0
39	1.00	0.0	0.0



Money worries? Let us help

Efforts to bring borrowers back into line after a Christmas spending spree have previously consisted of letters threatening the suspension of credit facilities and, for the worst cases, legal action and repossession. Several financial institutions are now adopting a more imaginative approach to the problem. They are offering their customers debt counselling help.

Europ Assistance, which provides 24-hour counselling services to the customers of a number of organisations, including The Mortgage Corporation and the Halifax Building Society, believes it is only a matter of time before debt counselling becomes an established part of many financial products.

"It is in everybody's interest," says Hugh McMurray, the legal services head at Europ Assistance. "The borrower receives the practical and

Lenders are scrapping nasty letters and using counsellors to advise customers on debts. Keith Conlon reports

legal advice he needs to manage his financial difficulties before they get out of hand, and the lender can control its debts and present a more sympathetic face to its customers, and this helps to cement long-term relationships.

"Unless people have an independent source they can turn to for advice, they will simply bury their heads in the sand until it is too late."

Europ Assistance has been flooded with calls since starting its debt counselling service in April last year. Most people's problems stem from redundancy, although high interest rates, divorce and imprudent purchases also play their part. The company's lawyers and coun-

sellors explain to the callers how to structure a repayment proposal that should satisfy the lender in the light of the individual's income and expenses. They also advise them on their social security entitlements and legal obligations.

"Most people do not realise they have legal rights, particularly under the Consumer Credit Act," Mr McMurray says. "They miss a few payments, receive a letter from the company demanding the return of the goods, and panic. Often they do not need to. If they have paid a certain number of instalments, the goods are protected and they can keep them."

All the information received by

the counsellors is treated in confidence and is not passed on to the lender. Julian Palmer, the customer development manager at The Mortgage Corporation, believes this is essential.

Mr Palmer says: "The service must be independent. Many of our customers have said they would not have contacted us until the last moment if they had not had somebody they could talk to in confidence early on."

"As it is, more and more of our customers are contacting us with sound repayment proposals. In fact, half these people are not in arrears but expect problems further down the line. This puts us in a much

stronger position to help them and suggest alternative products to carry them through. Often things are not as bad as they think."

Although debt counselling may be an established method, it is only one aspect of the help available. Companies such as Europ Assistance offer an ever-widening range of services, including redundancy, bereavement and stress counselling. These services are being sold to corporations, which offer them to their employees to help to raise productivity.

There is concern, however, that the quality of the advice and counselling may not always meet the standards required. Some companies without legal expertise and experience are trying to muscle in on the market. An ombudsman system may be necessary. In the meantime, keep a close eye on your finances during the coming weeks.

Danger lurks underground

A TIME bomb is ticking away under every house owner in Britain. It is the risk that the house may be built on land that will be registered as contaminated.

The doubt was created by an obscure provision in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. How many of the "bombs" go off depends on the eventual regulations that will specify what is contaminated land.

If the government's consultation paper is anything to go by, many house owners may find themselves with unsaleable and worthless properties.

The laudable aim of the government was to have public registers of contaminated land maintained by local authorities. A report by the House of Commons environmental select committee in 1989-90 had recommended such registers in order to warn potential purchasers, and the government implemented the proposal quickly by introducing an extra section at the Lords committee stage of the Environmental Protection Act.

In announcing the measure, David Trippier, the environment minister, said:

"I want to ensure that we avoid extending planning blight in those areas of the country with a legacy of industrial land use." Section 143 of the act allows the secretary of state to make regulations specifying the contamination uses of land and how local authorities are to keep the registers. The government has issued a consultation paper setting out its proposals, which in many respects go much further than many professionals consider practical. The main problem is with the list of contaminative uses, which, although comprehensive, does not distinguish between extremely dangerous contaminants and ones of no practical significance.

Thus, a spoil heap of radioactive waste will be treated in the same way as land beside an old coal mine impregnated with coal dust. Furthermore, no account is taken of the degree of contamination in every class of use.

As well as obvious contaminative uses such as asbestos works, there are less apparent ones such as railway marshalling yards, electricity substations and research laboratories.

Clearly, whether a laboratory site is contaminated or not depends on what has gone on in the laboratory. There might be difficulties in selling houses in Germ Warfare Drive but fewer problems in Electronic Research Close. The con-

sultation paper appreciates that the register may cause problems. With understatement, it says: "A register entry indicating possible contamination may cause the value of a site... to fall, or in extreme cases may make sale impossible."

Despite the potential disaster for the owner of a house or site in finding that the land is on the register, the scheme as proposed will merely list possibly contaminated sites without any investigation into whether they are contaminated or not. The reason given is cost. The estimated cost of investigating just the 40,000 hectares identified in the 1988 Derelict Land Survey is £600, whereas the cost of compiling the registers is estimated by the government to be only £35,000 to £40,000 for every local authority.

Some sort of register is better than none at all, but how will such a register work in practice? Some of the old metal-bashing and mining parts of the Black Country, for example, will have almost all land registered as contaminated.

There is a danger that familiarity will breed contempt in such areas and that developers and purchasers will not bother to assess whether the contamination is dangerous to life or not.

In rural areas where there is relatively little contaminated land, the opposite is likely to happen and housing estates built on 19th-century gaswork sites will suffer.

The proposal is that the local authorities begin compiling the registers on April 1 this year. It will be a brave surveyor indeed who will advise a lender that a house on a contaminated site is good security for a loan.

The consultation paper envisages that site owners will have to prove their limited or non-existent contamination at their own expense. This cost was considered unacceptable to central government and local authorities and will be an impossible burden for individual house owners.

At the very least, the government should require the register to record likely degrees of contamination. The hardship victims would be mainly the people at the bottom of the property ladder who can least afford reports by experts on the chemicals in their gardens.

A register of contaminated land is worthwhile, and important enough to be compiled in a systematic and fair way and not on the cheap. The property market is depressed enough without being made any worse. *The author is a practising solicitor*



BRIEF
PATRICK STEVENS

Witnesses can hide their lying eyes

How changed our lives would be if we could detect lying from a speaker's manner. The idea that liars are transparent often stems from wishful thinking and conceit about being "a good judge of men."

In criminal courts, jurors and magistrates traditionally assess credibility from a witness's "demeanour". The number of lies in testimony outnumber serious errors, and to believe a lie or reject the truth may lead to injustice. Devious ways of assessing credibility should not go unquestioned. Are there really signs of lying? If so, what are they? If a witness shows none, is he truthful? What is the basis of judging demeanour?

Demeanour covers visible behaviour, manner, and appearance, often called "body language", and the vocal features of testimony.

People are poor judges of liars in court, says Marcus Stone

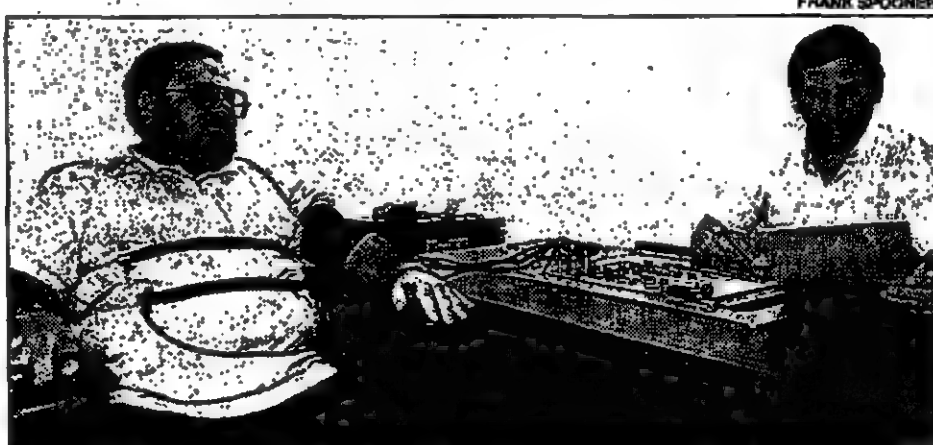
Fixed attributes such as sex, age, build and hair colour are not clues to veracity. Emotionally aroused involuntary processes such as blushing, pallor, perspiring and many facial expressions cannot be faked. Several forms may be present in temper, flinching or crying. Voluntary types of self-expression such as posture, gesture and facial expression or ways of using the voice may be spontaneous or simulated. So genuine displays must be distinguished from false ones.

Medical science cannot even conceive of specific lying processes in a brain or

their physiological links with demeanour. After 25 years' intensive research in the United States, Professor Paul Ekman, an expert in this branch of psychology, found there are no signs, gestures or facial expressions that reveal that a speaker is lying. Few people, contrary to myth, can detect lying or false expressions. Professor Ekman showed that most liars can deceive most people most of the time.

In daily life, the expression of emotions can offer clues to sincerity in favourable conditions, including a known speaker's changed manner, freer reactions than in court, and discernible minor changes in a nearby speaker. The context is crucial.

Court conditions hinder judgment of demeanour. Courts do not know the normal manner of unknown witnesses, who may be too



Blind justice: judges and juries are no more reliable than a lie detector test

distant for close observation. Courts inhibit witnesses and impede self-expression. Typically, edited testimony is obtained by controlled interrogation, which often restricts witnesses to brief, even monosyllabic, answers.

Common misconceptions are that liars betray themselves by anxiety signs such as averted eyes, pallor, perspiration, tremors or a quavering voice, and that truthful witnesses are calm. In fact, lying witnesses may be calm and truthful witnesses may be anxious.

Witnesses vary. Honest witnesses may be anxious by nature or fearful of cross-examination. Where some liars would be devastated, the relaxed manner of others may arise from genuine indifference or skillful pretence. Some good liars enjoy fencing with cross-examiners in the limelight, confident of escaping exposure. Believing relaxed witnesses or disbelieving anxious ones, on the sole basis of manner, is indefensible.

One distinguished judge, Lord Devlin, doubts the significance of demeanour and his ability to assess

credibility: "The great virtue... is usually said to be the opportunity in the trial gives to the judge to tell from the demeanour of the witness whether or not he is telling the truth."

"I think that this is overrated... It is the tableau that constitutes the big advantage, the text with illustrations, rather than the demeanour of a particular witness."

Marcus Stone, the Sheriff of Lothian and Borders at Linlithgow, is the author of Cross-examination in Criminal Trials (Butterworth)

An easier burden

SIR Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, has called for a new statutory duty on the prosecution to disclose to the defence, before trial, all the unused material that it possesses. He also proposes a right for the defence to demand disclosure of material relevant to specific aspects of its case.

The proposals, to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, would mean a less onerous burden on the prosecution than now. The prosecution would not have to disclose the wide range of material required by recent court rulings. Sir Patrick says the interpretation recently placed by courts on the existing guidelines on disclosure is often impossible to comply with, creates an "unacceptable burden", and slows preparation of criminal cases.

Fair start

WITH one month to go, firms of all kinds have signed up for the 1992 Law Fair. At the fair, students have the chance of making themselves known to a wide range of employers, which include big league names such as Slaughter and May, Baker McKenzie and Herbert Smith, and smaller firms such as Wallace & Partners, Compton Carr and Middleton Potts. One of the biggest

INSIDE OUTS

draws at the fair, which is organised by London University's careers advisory service and sponsored by The Times, The Law Society, the Bar and the Institute of Legal Executives, is expected to be the European Commission, which wants to boost the numbers of graduates it takes from Britain. As competition for places on Law Society finals courses continues, many polytechnics that now offer the course, as well as the College of Law, will host stands.

Present danger

BEWARE of Christmas gifts received from grateful clients. Your employer could confiscate them, and sack you on the ground that accepting a gift is a fundamental breach of contract. Courts and industrial tribunals may regard it as justifying instant dismissal. The warning comes from Gillian Howard, a law consultant, in an article in *The Law Society's Gazette*. A firm's partners can enjoy the odd case of champagne, opera tickets and lunch at the Ritz, but employees are not so lucky. Any goods, presents or money received for services rendered during work may be seized by the employer. Ms Howard adds: "While the tribunals have taken a dim view of employees who

take advantage of their position and enhance their salaries by offering or receiving gifts, bribes and the like, employers are still expected to act reasonably before making any decision whether or not to dismiss." Whether such



activities amount to gross misconduct will normally depend on whether the employer has spelt this out either in the contract of employment, staff handbook, rules or procedures, she says.

Nadir defenders

THE Manchester law firm that came to the rescue of Ernest Saunders when the former Guinness chief executive found himself on legal aid has again mounted a white charger. Panone, March Pearson is taking over the defence of Asil Nadir, the former chairman of Poly

Peck International, in civil and criminal proceedings, previously being handled by the firms of S.J. Berwin & Co and Vizards.

Mr Nadir had been advised that the two sets of proceedings would be better handled by one firm. Panone March Pearson has appointed Anthony Scrivenor, QC, last year's chairman of the Bar, as "coordinating lead counsel" in all the proceedings. S.J. Berwin & Co had indicated it might not be able to continue to act if third parties ceased to finance Mr Nadir.

Rodger Panone says: "It does appear that on the available evidence Mr Nadir has a full answer to the accusations he faces."

Panone March Pearson is able to act for Mr Nadir on a legal aid basis if necessary. The firm has lower overheads than London firms and salaries at two-thirds of those paid in London, yet Mr Panone says, it is able to provide a comparable service. This is not a selling point, it is a fact, he adds. "We did Saunders' case and we are still alive."

The criminal proceedings are due to be transferred to the crown court next month but the trial is not likely to start for several months. The civil proceedings have begun.

Pension power

IN the wake of the Maxwell financial disclosures, employers are rushing out statements from their pensions specialists, perhaps in the hope of grabbing some of the limelight. Cameron Markby Hewitt is seeking government support for a nationwide survey into the extent of fraud within pension funds.

Sean Band, the head of the firm's pensions unit, says that in condemning the investment practices of the Mirror Group Newspapers pension funds, commentators are overlooking the need for tighter controls.

The Mirror case highlights weaknesses such as inadequate internal and regulatory controls, and the inability of bodies such as the Superannuation Funds Office or Occupational Pensions Board to intervene. Clive Boxer, of Fishburn Boxer & Co, claims the affair highlights the need for more lawyers and fewer accountants at the head of big industrial concerns.

"The time for company directors to have regard to their legal obligations has now become urgent. Less accountability and more legality is required," he says. Some accountants have shown themselves not "terribly sure" of legal obligations, he says, and are sometimes unable to understand conflicts of interest.

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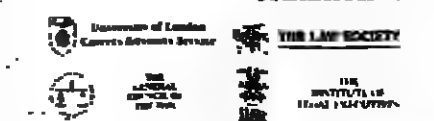
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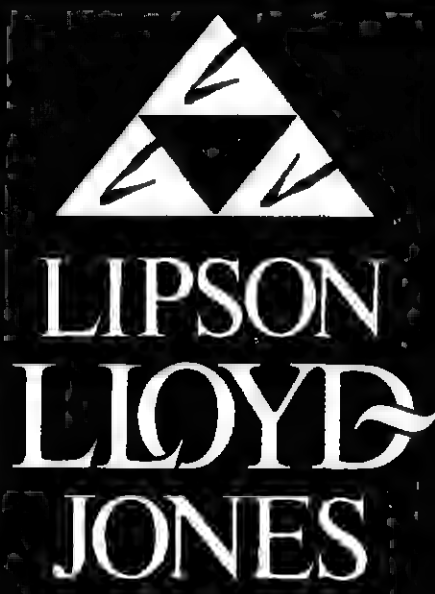
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Why Britain cannot ignore jail shame

The government disagrees with a Council of Europe report that describes conditions in some of our prisons as 'inhuman and degrading'. Rod Morgan and Malcolm Evans examine the findings and the implications of the condemnation



Rooftop protest: prisoners at Strangeways, Manchester, protesting about conditions in 1990

The Council of Europe report that described some British prison conditions as "inhuman and degrading" was widely expected to be a political embarrassment for the government. But how damaging was it really, and how adequate was the government's response, released last month at the same time as the report?

The findings were made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), after it inspected five prisons and five police stations in the London and Leeds areas, in August 1990.

The CPT was established under the European convention of the same name, known as the "torture convention" which aims to encourage observance of Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (ECHR).

The article says that nobody shall be subject to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. Whereas the ECHR provides mechanisms for investigation of alleged breaches, and a determination of whether a breach has occurred, the "torture convention" aims to establish a dialogue with states to help them to end unacceptable practices.

Each of the 20 Council of Europe member states that have ratified the torture convention is entitled to nominate a member of the CPT. The states are then liable to be visited by the CPT, at short notice, in order to inspect any place of detention. The CPT selects countries by lot and the United Kingdom was the third country visited. The inspection by the delegation of five CPT members, headed by the Italian president of the committee, lasted 12 days.

Its report, sent to the government last March, was confidential, so that the government was not obliged to publish it. However, the first two countries to be visited, Austria and Denmark, had both opted for publication, and the contents of the UK report had already been leaked to the press (*The Times*, October 21, 1991). It would have been unwise for the government to hold off any longer, so the report was made public on December 12.

A great deal in the report is positive. This goes beyond the fact that the CPT found no evidence of torture. The committee was clearly impressed by "most" of what it found in the police stations visited.

Britain's Holloway prison in north London received a clean bill of health: some aspects there were found to be "excellent" or "impressive". Bullwood Hall, the other prison for women visited, gets fewer commendations and one or two criticisms, but they are not serious.

Finally, several general aspects of our prison system received the

The CPT has adopted a cumulative view of adverse conditions. Thus, particular conditions that might not in themselves be inhuman and degrading become so when combined with others. This is what is referred to in American prisoners' rights suits as the "totality of conditions".

The building that led the CPT to its judgment were overcrowding (of which the worst case was three prisoners occupying cells designed for one); lack of integral sanitation (prisoners having to defecate or urinate in a pot without privacy within a confined space in front of cell mates); and the absence of out-of-cell activities (cell confinement for up to 22 hours a day).

If all three of these features co-existed then the result, the CPT argued, is inhuman and degrading treatment. In its response, however, the government disagrees, although it regrets all the features described and argues that it is doing everything possible to eliminate them.

Does it matter whether the term "inhuman and degrading" is conceded or not? The answer clearly is yes. The term was not used in the

criticisms contained in the Australian and Danish reports, or elsewhere in the report on the UK. This is not only a "first" for the CPT, but implies that the conditions found breach Article 3 of the ECHR.

The significance of this is that these conditions have been repeatedly and robustly criticised by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, have been pervasive, and are still to be found in many local prisons, though not necessarily in those that the CPT visited. Should the prison population continue to rise, those conditions might persist for some time.

Had the government conceded the description that the CPT used, which the Chief Inspector would almost certainly endorse, and with which most prison officers and governors would agree, it would have opened the floodgates to petitions under ECHR machinery.

As it is, the CPT pronouncement will itself probably stimulate a trickle of actions.

© Rod Morgan and Malcolm Evans are respectively the professor of criminal justice and a lecturer in law at Bristol University. Mr Morgan was the assessor to Lord Justice Woolf's Inquiry into the Prison Disturbances April 1990.

Inspectors found overcrowding, lack of integral sanitation and the absence of out-of-cell activities



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Despite the recession there seem to be signs that lawyers' prospects in London this year will be better than last. The year 1991 may go down as the time when the legal profession sobered up after the long party of the 1980s. But London lawyers still clearly have a zest for life.

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PENSIONS

Leading international City firm seeks lawyer with at least 3 years' experience to join busy pensions group. First class work and exceptional salary package. Ref: 4183

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Well-known firm with strong client base seeks 1-3 year qualified lawyer to handle broad range of company/commercial work. City salary package. Ref: 5750

IT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Newly - three year qualified solicitor with IT/Telecommunications experience to join thriving practice. First class work and prospects. Ref: 5595



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

LEGAL ADVISER

Quality finance house seeks corporate lawyer from top City stable with at least five years' ppe in all aspects of corporate finance work. Impressive prospects. Ref: 5598

SOLE IN HOUSE LAWYER

Major international bank seeks high calibre City lawyer with at least 4 years' ppe. With experience of capital markets, investment banking, syndicated and secured lending as well as venture capital work. Ref: 5718

COMPLIANCE LAWYER

Major investment house seeks compliance lawyer with between 1 and 4 years' ppe. With relevant experience in compliance work and FSA work. Excellent working environment. Ref: 5643

For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Meistré (solicitor) on 071-405 6062 (081-340 7078 evenings/weekends), or write to her at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

LAWYERS YOUR CAREER IN SAFE HANDS

Considering a career move? You cannot afford to have confidentiality breached. Thirteen leading legal recruitment consultancies know how important this is. They have subscribed to a Code of Practice which is enforced by FRES and which ensures that candidates' interests are fully protected.

Your CV will not be submitted to anyone without your prior agreement.

Make sure your career is in safe hands by using only a FRES Legal Section Member.

Copies of the code can be obtained from FRES, 36-38 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RB. 071-323 4300, or a member firm.

FRES is the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services.

ASA Law
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London Law Appointments
Quarry Dougall Recruitment
Ridgeway Legal
Richard Owen & Hargreaves
Zarak Hay & Law

FRES
LEGAL SECTION

Company Commercial - Partner - c £130,000

A medium sized West End practice with a strong company department and PLC client base seeks an additional solicitor with a good following and a broad commercial background to join as a partner. Yellow/white book experience an advantage.

Company/Commercial - 2 to 4 Years Qual - to £57,000

A large City firm requires an additional solicitor to join its successful and respected company department to handle public company/promotional work. Preference will be given to those with experience from another City firm. Excellent long term prospects and quality of work.

Company/Commercial - NQ to 2 Years Qual - to £39,000

A large City firm requires a newly to 2 years qualified solicitor to assist in a range of commercial and private company work including acquisitions and disposals. A good academic background and City articles are required by this recognised corporate department.

Commercial Litigation - Partner - 2 Neg

A well known and successful WCI practice seeks an additional solicitor to join its expanding litigation department as a partner. Experience of banking litigation/insolvency would complement existing caseloads however a litigator with more general commercial background would also be considered. Salary dependent on following.

Commercial Litigation - 2 to 4 Years Qual - £51,000

A medium sized City firm with national and international offices requires a solicitor/barrister with at least 2 years commercial litigation experience to assist on large contractual claims, some professional negligence cases, construction and landlord & tenant disputes.

Commercial Litigation - NQ to 2 Years - £36,000

A medium sized specialist practice seeks a recently qualified solicitor from a City firm to handle contract disputes in relation to corporate transactions and technology contracts. The firm offers good training and has excellent backup facilities.

Construction - 3-5 Years Qual - London/Hong Kong

A small commercial practice with an established client base seeks a solicitor to handle a mixture of contentious and non contentious construction matters predominantly arising in Hong Kong. This is a progressive and friendly firm where long term prospects are excellent. Considerable opportunity for overseas travel.

Shipping Litigation - 2 Years + Qual - £50,000

A highly respected niche practice seeks a solicitor or barrister preferably with a shipping background (or with good commercial experience) to handle dry shipping and international arbitration work. Excellent working environment and quality of work.

Garfield Robbins

Legal Recruitment Consultants, 21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TB
Nicholas Robbins or Gavin Crocker on (071) 405 1123 or evenings (081) 646 4955

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A unique weekly service in the News of the World is the ideal way of tracking down missing beneficiaries.

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The News of the World "Unclaimed Money" Section cost just £20 + VAT per line, minimum 3 lines.

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All advertisements should be accompanied by a solicitor's letter NRS Jan - Jun 90

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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COMMERCIAL LAWYERS

(PROPERTY, LITIGATION & COMPANY/COMMERCIAL)

£27,000 - £50,000

Acting for an exceptionally strong base of both domestic and international clients, our Client, one of the UK's leading commercial law firms continues to expand and to attract very high calibre work.

Such is the success of its City practice that it now seeks a senior **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYER** with at least four years' experience across a broad range of commercial property matters.

In addition, the firm requires two ambitious young lawyers (up to two years qualified) for its **COMMERCIAL LITIGATION** and **COMPANY/ COMMERCIAL** departments.

Each of the successful candidates will have a sound academic record, together with the personality and drive to make a real contribution to the firm's continuing success.

The firm offers a diverse range of top quality City work in an environment where individuals have the opportunity to flourish. The salary packages and prospects are excellent.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-485 6662 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

QD

QUARRY DOUGALL

UNITED KINGDOM · HONG KONG · NEW ZEALAND · AUSTRALIA · USA

LONDON

CO/CO To £140,000

Small/medium sized Holborn firm with young equity partner profile seeks like-minded practitioner with modest client portfolio to add senior depth to an extremely busy department.

LITIGATION To £38,000

Medium sized City firm with wide ranging commercial and media client base seeks bright and outgoing 1-2 year qualified commercial litigator for range of contract, employment and some media work. Excellent salary and working environment.

IP To £39,500

IP lawyer, preferably with science degree, sought for contentious/non-contentious m/c. Highly regarded department involved in several recent seminal decisions. Strong overseas offices, secondment opportunities if desired. Successful candidate will combine excellent academic record with good interpersonal skills.

EEC To £70,000

Medium/large Central London firm seeks EEC lawyer with minimum of 5 years' p/qe for partner designate role. All aspects of EEC and UK competition. Anti-dumping experience and an additional language each an advantage.

EMPLOYMENT To £44,000

Medium sized Central London firm with blend of established City and small business clients seeks ambitious employment lawyer to work in busy litigation department. Opportunity for advocacy if desired. Bi-annually reviewed City salary.

CONSTRUCTION To £48,500

City firm with small but highly successful specialist construction group seeks lawyer with contentious expertise for a broad range of contractual and other disputes. High level of responsibility and client contact. Genuine prospects.

We are already receiving fresh instructions for 1992 of which the above represents a small cross-section. For further information in complete confidence please contact Jonathan Macrae or Jonathan Brenner on 071-377 0510 (081-332 0733 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.

ZMB

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HAPPY NEW YEAR?

To ensure 1992 will be both happy and prosperous, contact Lipson Lloyd-Jones for a confidential, informed and comprehensive discussion about your career. The Lipson Lloyd-Jones Jobline provides regularly updated information on 0898 313470. Calls charged at 36p per minute off peak, 48p per minute all other times.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION £25,000-£80,000
We are currently inundated with instructions from small, medium and large practices in Central London for top grade commercial litigators from newly qualified to Partnership level.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY £50,000
A major City firm seeks a solicitor with 2-4 years P/QE and a strong electronics background, either academic or practical. A superb package is offered.

SHIPPING £32,000-£100,000
Shipping litigators from 2-5PQE are sought by a major City practice, and a medium sized City firm with a strong banking client base seeks a shipping finance partner designate.

CORPORATE TAX £35,000
Medium sized City firm seeks corporate tax specialist with between 2-4PQE. There will also be an opportunity to handle general commercial work. Contact Simon Lipson or Marianne Ferguson both Solicitors.

INDUSTRY

BANKING £30,000-£40,000 package
Two leading European banks seek lawyers with commercial and financial experience. One position requires at least 4PQE and the other between 1-3PQE.

HI TEC £40,000 package
A major hi-tech company requires a commercial lawyer with a solid track record in either private practice or industry to join its legal department initially on a one year contract.

FINANCE/LEASING £30,000 + benefits
Major group requires a lawyer with leasing and finance expertise to join the business development section of its legal department. At least 2 years P/QE required.

OIL COMPANY £60,000 + benefits
Senior oil and gas lawyer required to handle upstream and downstream work. Another oil company seeks to recruit those with international negotiating experience. Contact Lucy Boyd, a Barrister.

THE LEGAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

SOUTH HANTS

c £35,000 + CAR

Legal and Commercial Manager

Our client is a small but rapidly emerging UK-based group of companies operating mainly in this country and Europe. It designs, produces, sells and supports advanced interactive voice processing equipment for value added services in the telecommunications industry. The organisation is committed to international growth and invests substantially in its development.

As Legal and Commercial Manager you will enjoy wide ranging responsibilities and play a prominent role by providing commercial and legal services across the Group. Key tasks will include drafting, reviewing and negotiating major contracts, supporting the establishment of overseas operations, advising on employment and company law and international trading matters. This will necessitate close liaison with senior management throughout the operations and will involve some overseas travel of short-stay duration.

A qualified lawyer with relevant post qualifying experience, ideally within the telecommunications sector, your practical knowledge base and commercial background, which should include a working knowledge of intellectual property law, must enable you to make a full contribution to the business. Initiative, drive and enthusiasm are essential in addition to the professional and interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in this dynamic and entrepreneurial environment.

Please send full personal and career details, including current remuneration level and daytime telephone number, in confidence, to Adrian Edgell, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte Executive Resourcing Limited, 8 Greyfriars Road, Reading RG1 1JG, quoting reference AEB45 on both envelope and letter.

Coopers & Lybrand
Deloitte Executive Resourcing

LONDON

INSURANCE/REINSURANCE £50,000 - £200,000

We are currently instructed by this medium sized City practice seeking 2 Solicitors, 2-5 years' P/QE and a Partner Designate. In the junior role, you will have handled broad spread insurance work and have Lloyds market experience. In the senior role, you will have extensive insurance contacts and some client following. Ref: 211/LN.

SENIOR CORPORATE PARTNER to £175,000
Medium-large central London practice seeks Solicitor/Partner, with client following to handle wide ranging corporate matters, including public company work, acquisitions and MBO's. Excellent remuneration package. Ref: 212/LN.

CORPORATE TAX £75,000
Leading City practice seeks Solicitor to join as Partner Designate to handle broad range of corporate taxation including domestic and international work. Challenging and high profile role. Ref: 213/LN.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY to £45,000

The corporate department of this thriving City practice requires a 2-5 years' qualified non-contentious specialist to undertake I.T., trademarks, copyright, supply and distribution agreements, competition law (UK & EC) and I.P. aspects of M&A. Ref: 214/LN.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY £40,000
3 years' qualified professional indemnity practitioner sought by this pre-eminent practice to specialise in particular in Accountants negligence matters. Good academics required. Ref: 215/LN.

EEC to £38,000
Medium sized commercial practice seeks 2-3 years' qualified Solicitor with EC law experience, some of which will ideally have been gained in Brussels, to work in London involving frequent liaison with and trips to Brussels office. Excellent career prospects. Ref: 216/LN.

Please contact Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., at 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH.

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PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT
The first and best legal recruitment agency

Telephone Karen Mulvihill or Michael Silver on (071) 404 4846 (day) or (071) 538 6391 (eve).

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CAPABLE SOLICITOR

WITH UP TO 2 YEARS P/QE WITH THE ABILITY TO HANDLE A BROAD RANGE OF CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS INCLUDING ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS OF PRIVATE COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES, MBO'S, JOINT VENTURES AND SHAREHOLDERS AGREEMENTS.

GOOD ACADEMIC BACKGROUND REQUIRED. PLEASE APPLY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO:

Miss Hayley Grant
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9 - 11 Fulwood Place
Gray's Inn
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Barristers Clerk Birmingham based

Attractive package

We are a long established and expanding barristers chambers with a wide range of clients. We currently require a high calibre professional to join our existing clerking function.

Ideal candidates must be experienced barristers clerk with proven negotiation and interpersonal skills.

Rewards will match demands. Remuneration and career prospects are excellent for the right individual.

Please Reply to Box No 6776

Major UK PLC Deputy Company Secretary

Age 25-30

Our client is a major UK conglomerate with a turnover in excess of £1bn. The group comprises a diverse range of highly successful international businesses which are household names and market leaders in their respective sectors.

Following an internal promotion, there is a need to appoint an astute, young professional to the role of Deputy Company Secretary based at Group Headquarters in central London.

Reporting to the Group Company Secretary and leading a small team, the appointee will be given the latitude to play a key role. Responsibilities will include:-

- ensuring that statutory, Stock Exchange and other regulatory requirements are complied with in a timely and competent fashion;
- giving guidance and advice on a wide range of legal and administrative matters;

c £35k + Car + Benefits

• providing professional support in respect of legal documentation and other relevant aspects of acquisitions, disposals and other special projects.

Candidates should be graduates and qualified lawyers with several years' relevant experience. The ACIS qualification, though not essential, would be advantageous. Strong intellectual ability and sound technical knowledge, balanced by a pragmatic and versatile approach, are mandatory. Self-confidence and well developed interpersonal and communication skills are also necessary. We are looking for an individual who will thrive in a demanding environment.

In addition to the advertised salary, the remuneration package comprises a company car, pension scheme, private health care and other benefits.

Interested applicants should write, enclosing a detailed CV, to Roger Howell at the address below, quoting reference 095J.

ST. JAMES ASSOCIATES

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

32 OLD BURLINGTON STREET, LONDON W1X 1LB FAX: 071-287 2821. TELEPHONE: 071-287 2820.

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PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR · C.£34,000 + BENEFITS

Bromley's forward-looking and management-orientated legal section is already playing a decisive role in meeting the special challenges of the 'nineties - and things are happening fast. If you are looking for wide professional scope and real personal development, this could be the opportunity for you.

For success in this role, you will need sound experience in both Town & Country Planning and litigation. Proven high-level management skills are also essential.

Salary will be supported by benefits including a leased car option, a generous relocation scheme where appropriate (featuring equity share to £70,000), and a good pension scheme. You will be based at the Civic Centre, set in superb grounds with easy access to Bromley town centre.

If you would like an informal chat about this position, ring Beryl Cook or Walter Millon on 081-515 4355. For an application form and further details, please telephone 081-515 4449 (24-hour answering service), quoting reference A256. Closing date: 24th January 1992.

Bromley
THE LONDON BRANCH

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 9313
071-782 7828

HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

MILTON KEYNES

£70,000 PLUS SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SECTOR BENEFITS

Abbey National has established itself as an innovative and successful financial services organisation, encompassing substantial UK and expanding European operations. The Company converted to PLC status in 1989 and relies on its Legal Services department to ensure a continuing policy of sound prudential control, achieving the delicate balance between sound legal analysis and commercial realism.

We are now seeking a new Head of Legal Services to build on the department's existing reputation for high quality cost-effective legal advice. The department has a staff of approximately 100 of whom 20 are solicitors or qualified legal executives. Advice is provided over a wide range of commercial, property and company law issues, and in addition there is a sizeable litigation section. Managerial skills are at a premium and a proven track record in this regard is therefore essential. The post holder reports to the Group Secretary and will also be expected to provide a legal view on key strategic and operational issues.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate:

- 10 years' experience as a solicitor
- 5 years spent in a commercial environment, not necessarily within financial services
- proven track record in successful team management
- strong commitment to self-development

Please send your completed CV, including details of your current salary package, to Christine Nagle, H.Q. Personnel & Training Manager, Abbey National PLC, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL. Tel: 071-612 4162.

The closing date for receipt of CVs is Tuesday, 21st January 1992.

Applications are invited from all sections of the community.



Year in Review

Recruitment agents are well placed to detect fluctuations in confidence on the part of employers. They are the first to be told when vacancies are put on hold or when a freeze on recruitment is lifted. What we have seen in recent months is a 'best described as cautious' industry. Employers are seeking candidates for positions they think they wish to fill but they are not rushing to make appointments. The same vacancy will appear, disappear and reappear intermittently, and when it last is filled it is likely to be a cautious appointment on a 'best described as cautious' basis. Candidates must therefore be aware of the fact that the market is not as strong as it once was. Very few of the articles of the last year have been taken on by London firms during the boom years, and it is these firms, of course, which have been hit hardest by the recession. As a result, many newly-qualified are now having to look for jobs in the provinces. Candidates most in demand are the 2-4 year qualified litigators, especially those with experience in insurance work, insolvency, personal injury, construction, landlord & tenant, and intellectual property. Outside London, there is a continuing demand for those experienced in such recession-proof areas as crime, matrimonial and general High Street work. Another theme to emerge during 1991 is the extraordinary appeal of solicitors who can guarantee a client following. The field of specialisation is immaterial: whether they are conveyancers, commercial lawyers or litigators, their following will ensure their marketability. *Michael Chambers*

INDUSTRY & BANKING

- International Bank City**
Solicitor with up to 3 years' commercial experience to join leading international bank.
- Commercial Property: London**
Solicitor with at least 5 yrs' conveyancing experience to join one of the UK's best-known companies.
- Tax Lawyers: Jersey**
Vacancies with banks and finance houses for tax solicitors or barristers with residence status.
- Partnership Positions**
We have been advising partners on career development for over ten years, and understand such requirements. We also know the intricacies of legal and commercial law.
- European Lawyer: South East**
Hi-tech group needs lawyer qualified (or with experience) in Europe. £45,000 + car.
- Commercial Lawyer: London**
Solicitor with 2-3 yrs' general commercial experience to join expanding hi-tech co. £35,000 + car.
- International Manufacturing: S. East**
Innovative international co seeks lawyer with at least 5 yrs' exp. (pref. media biased). £50,000
- Commercial Lawyer: North West**
Recently qualified lawyer to handle commercial contract work & litigation. £20,000 + car
- Patent Agent: South East**
Patent agent for well-known international hi-tech co. Strong overseas travel. £31,000 + car

PRIVATE PRACTICE

- LONDON & OVERSEAS**
- Co/Commercial: City**
Niche corporate firm seeks 1-3 yr qual sol for broad range of wk for public & private co clients.
- Commercial Tax Lawyer: Holborn**
Opportunity for tax lawyer to handle corporate & property tax and some general commercial work.
- Personal Injury Litigator: West End**
Defendant insurance practice seeks specialist personal injury litigator. £20,000
- International Commercial Law: City**
Superb opening for solicitor seeking involvement in international work, line trade, finance, energy, etc.
- Commercial Litigation: Holborn**
Litigator, over 3 yrs qual, pref with 2nd European language, to join medium-sized litigation practice.
- Banking Litigation: City**
City firm with flourishing banking practice seeks 2-4 yr qual sol to handle banking/insolvency lit.
- PROVINCES**
- Construction Lawyer: The North**
Senior lawyer to head up new dept within top commercial firm. Prospects. £35-40,000.
- Commercial Property: S.W. London**
Niche firm seeks experienced commercial property lawyer to assist busy partners. £35,000.
- Personal Injury: Surrey**
PI practice seeks sol, min 2 yrs' exp., to handle plaintiff/uninsured loss recovery work.
- Matrimonial Lawyer: Cambridgeshire**
Busy mat dept (with latest technology) seeks experienced matrimonial lawyer. Some advocacy.
- Conveyancing: Surrey**
Immediate vac for experienced conveyancer in busy & friendly practice. Mix of residential & comm.
- Civil Litigation: Lincolnshire**
Sol, late 20s/early 30s, with all-round litigation exp. to head litigation dept. Philip prospects.

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(Fax: 071-600 1793)

Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS: PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

MANCHESTER:
Tel: (061) 228 2122
53 Princess St,
Manchester M2 4EQ
(Fax: 061-228 2213)

PRIVATE PRACTICE — COMMERCE/INDUSTRY

- COMMERCIAL LITIGATION** £45,000
Respected, medium sized firm practice seeks experienced litigator for burgeoning commercial litigation department. Work undertaken includes corporate disputes, defamation, employment and intellectual property. Applications are invited from solicitors of partnership calibre (min 3 years' PQE).
- CONSTRUCTION** To £50,000
Successful construction department of leading City practice seeks assistant with 2-4 years' experience. High profile international workload includes construction of industrial, residential premises, shopping centre/town centre developments to civil engineering projects.
- CORPORATE TAXATION** To £55,000
Progressive medium sized City practice requires a solicitor with 3-4 years' experience gained from a respected tax firm. Excellent opportunity to handle top quality work in a small, rapidly expanding group. Top 'City' salary is on offer together with a clear route through to partnership.
- COMPANY/COMMERCIAL** To £50,000
This well known, medium sized Holborn practice seeks to expand its thriving company/commercial department by recruiting an additional solicitor 2-4 years qualified. Applicants should be bright, ambitious and enjoy client contact. This position offers work of the highest quality.
- BANKING/CORPORATE** To £60,000
A superb opportunity has arisen to set up an in-house function within this prestigious international bank. You will be responsible for advising on commercial and investment banking issues, M&A, trade finance and general legal matters. At least 3 years' PQE required. Superb package.
- EC/COMMERCIAL** To £50,000
A world leader in hi-tech systems requires a lawyer with at least 5 years' PQE in EC and/or general commercial work. As a member of the European development team you will be involved in the negotiation of major commercial deals, corporate matters and EC issues. Based in Hants.
- CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL** c. £45,000
Prestigious international company, with worldwide interests, seeks a solicitor to join its expanding legal department. With up to 4 years' PQE and a first class background you will handle diverse corporate and commercial matters in a dynamic environment. An outstanding opportunity.
- SOLE LAWYER** c. £50,000
US multinational seeks a legal adviser to fulfil a high profile role at its London based UK headquarters. As a solicitor, with over 5 years' experience in industry, you will have full responsibility for a broad spectrum of corporate/commercial work including M&A.

If you are interested in any of the above positions or would like to discuss your career options please contact Nick Root (Private Practice) or Paul Mewis (Industry/Commerce) on 071-936 2565 (081-675 6384 or 081-542 8337 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Taylor Root, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3AB.

TAYLOR & ROOT

LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

AS A PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY, WE NEVER APPROACH CLIENTS WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR CONSENT

A vacancy has arisen within our Intellectual Property Group for a non-contentious intellectual property lawyer with approximately 1-2 years' post-qualification experience.

Non-contentious Intellectual Property Lawyer

The Group is involved in a wide variety of commercial transactions with a technology or marketing content including a considerable amount in the biotechnology and computer fields. The Group also advises on the intellectual property aspects of corporate transactions. The ideal candidate will have studied intellectual property at degree level and will have experience of corporate and commercial transactions including share and asset sales and purchases and joint ventures. The international bias of the Group's work makes a second language desirable, preferably European or Japanese.

Applicants should apply with full CV to: Bernadette Willoughby, McKenna & Co., Mitre House, 160 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4DD. Tel: 071-606 9000.

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Principal Solicitor

(Directorate Projects Unit)

PO7-PO8 £28,644 to £31,524 (incl LW) & subsidised lease car

Solicitors/ Senior Solicitors

PO4-PO5 £24,282 to £27,543 (incl LW) & subsidised lease car

DIRECTORATE PROJECTS UNIT

This team provides legal advice and support to the Council's Education Directorate and deals with other major litigation matters and projects.

To head up this unit we are looking for a Principal Solicitor. Ref: DP/PT357.

We are also looking for Solicitors/Senior Solicitors for this unit. Ref: DS/PT358.

In addition we are looking for Solicitors/Senior Solicitors for the following teams:

SOCIAL SERVICES

Provides a comprehensive legal service for all the Council's social services functions, including childcare, and work for people with disabilities and the elderly. Ref: SS/PT361.

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Provides a comprehensive legal service for the Council's Housing functions, and also deals with all aspects of the law relating to environmental health. Ref: H/PT359.

SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT

Deals with employment law, competitive tendering and local government finance and undertakes a variety of project work and litigation for the Council as a whole. Ref: SP/PT360.

PLANNING, PROPERTY & CONTRACTS

PLANNING: Deals with legal work arising from the Council's development functions. Ref: PL/PT362.

PROPERTY: Deals with a variety of property work including complex transactions and litigation. Ref: PR/PT363.

CONTRACTS: You will have responsibility for the Council's contracts, including litigation over contractual disputes and drafting complex documentation. Ref: CB/PT364.

For all posts you must demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunities both in service delivery and in the management of teams within a multi-cultural environment. Experience in the public sector is not necessary. Please quote relevant reference number.

SOLICITORS/SENIOR SOLICITORS — you must be a qualified solicitor or barrister. For posts based in the following teams we also welcome applications from fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives: Special Projects Unit, Property, Planning, Contracts and Directorate Projects Unit.

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR — you must be a qualified solicitor or barrister with some experience of administrative law and advising on the legal aspects of education.

Contact: Ellen Reynolds or Paul Cross on 081-533 5558 for further details and an application form or write to Ellen Reynolds at the Personnel Section, LB Hackney, Maurice Bishop House, Reading Lane, London E8 1DS (direct response during office hours available from 17-20 December 1991, and 30 December 1991 onwards).

However, from 21-29 December 1991 an answerphone service only will be available, on 081-533 5558 or 081-536 0334.

Closing date: 5pm, 20 January 1992. Interviews: week commencing 27 January 1992.

All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcome with or without a partner.

HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working for local people

Commerce/Industry London/H. Counties	Private Practice London/The South	Commerce/Industry Nationwide/Overseas
<p>LONDON CAPITAL MARKETS A new position has arisen with this major bank for a lawyer with a minimum of 2 years' capital markets experience.</p> <p>LONDON HIGH TECH A lawyer with between 2 and 4 years' experience is required by this high tech company to set up a legal department.</p> <p>BEDS./BERKS. PATENTS Two major companies seek applicants who are qualified to CPA/EPA and 3 years' + experience.</p> <p>LONDON BANKING This leading merchant bank requires a lawyer with at least 3 years' experience to handle a range of corporate/commercial work.</p>	<p>LONDON INTELLECTUAL PROP. This highly successful firm requires a 2 to 5 year qualified solicitor with good non-contentious intellectual property experience.</p> <p>LONDON PERSONAL INJURY This 'niche' insurance firm requires an experienced (at least 7 years) personal injury litigator to handle substantial claims.</p> <p>KENT LITIGATION This major regional practice requires a solicitor with one or more years' experience to handle a range of commercial litigation.</p> <p>SURREY LITIGATION This firm requires a solicitor to take charge of a small, growing department involved in mainly commercial litigation.</p>	<p>PARIS BANKING A lawyer with French and 2 years' + experience in bond issues, SWAPs and syndicated loans is required to join this company.</p> <p>WORCS. CO./COM. A solicitor or barrister with 1 year + experience is sought by this company to handle contracts, joint ventures, employment and IP.</p> <p>CAMBS. ASS. CO./SEC. A junior company secretary with some good experience, aged up to 27, and Part II qualified, is required by this PLC.</p> <p>SURREY COMMERCIAL This high profile multi-national company requires an additional lawyer with a minimum of 3 years' experience.</p>

The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. All approaches are treated in the strictest confidence and we never send out your CV without your express consent.

LAURENCE SIMONS ASSOCIATES

Please telephone Shona McDougall, Laurence Simons or Rose Hallowell on 071-831 3270 (071-483 1899 evenings/weekends) or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. Fax: 071-831 4423.

Legal Recruitment

سكوت من الجدل

The scientists who help to make treatment work

Advances in modern medicine would not be possible without the men and women behind the technology in magnetic resonance imaging, gamma cameras, incubators and artificial heart valves. All these come within the area of medical physics.

The medical physicist is a physics graduate — first-class or second-class honours — who then does further training at a teaching hospital and combines postgraduate studies, M.Sc. or Ph.D., with work practice. An essential member of hospital staff, the medical physicist collaborates closely with doctors, and by research, contributes to the development of improved techniques.

Professor Richard Wootton, the director of medical physics at Hammersmith Hospital and Royal Postgraduate Medical School, says: "Medical physics includes radiotherapy, engineering and computing, which is interesting because the technology is always changing."

At the junior grade at Hammersmith, a physicist expects to spend a period in every section — radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and radiation protection.

Professor Wootton's department consists of university staff and hospital staff. He encourages an exchange of practice and research. The first heart-and-lung machine and the first renal dialysis ma-

Physicists aim to improve medical techniques. Bernardine Coverley reports on science's unsung heroes

chine were built at the Hammersmith. However, recruitment can be a problem, partly because the NHS is undergoing changes. The radiotherapy section at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, for example, has two posts unfilled between junior grade and head of section. This is not uncommon, even though some regional health authorities are empowered to pay 20 per cent above standard rates. The medical physicist's low profile and fairly modest salary tend to obscure the professional satisfaction of a developing technology.

Not all hospitals have big medical physics departments. Nevertheless, the one-person or two-person unit is becoming more unusual as expertise and expensive equipment are increasingly concentrated and "lent" to hospitals in the district and to private hospitals. A small department can, however, mean that the work at junior grade is more diverse and more responsible. For pure research, the Medical Research Council also employs medical physicists.

In the nuclear medicine section,

Danny McCool, who is 29, enjoys the mix of science, computing and patient contact. "With kidney transplant patients," he says, "we use nuclear tomography to see from the inside what is happening. Then those images are processed to produce graphs."

Magnetic resonance imaging is another way to produce pictures of the soft tissues inside the body. All the machines must be checked regularly to ensure they are correctly calibrated. New developments and refinements must be passed on to technicians.

Naina Hindocha completed a physics degree at Leicester Polytechnic, then moved to London for the challenge of "responsible" work.

Today she discusses with the doctor the treatment plan for a young woman's spinal tumour. They look at a transverse section on the monitor. "It is so important to work out a radiation treatment so nearby areas are not affected," she says.

Fifteen pictures have been fed into the computer to provide

enough information to determine exactly where the dose should be given and how much.

For leukaemia, total body radiation is used, every part needing a different dose. The pre-treatment plan takes two days to work out. "This is all calculated manually from an initial test dose," she explains. If that sounds like the ultimate in responsibility, checks are always made as part of supervision and teamwork.

Before a plan is shown to a patient, Mrs Hindocha will do a test run on a simulator machine, after which she writes instructions for the radiographer. After treatment, she uses a dose meter to check sensitive areas.

As part of studying for an M.Sc. in radiation physics, she spends a day a week at London University working on a special project to devise a method of planning treatment for small areas of the brain using a personal computer. This is done on the planning computer and takes three or four hours. A quicker, new method will release the main computer.

The Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine, 4 Camplish Road, York YO2 1PE, organises meetings and runs a training scheme for new graduate entrants to the NHS. IPSM membership also gives membership of the Hospital Physicists Association, Surrey and London Universities and the University of Wales at Cardiff and Swansea have degree courses in physics with medical physics.



Enjoying a challenge: Naina Hindocha at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London. Mrs Hindocha is also studying for an M.Sc. and working on a computer project

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826

Once again, the SOCPO Recruitment Advertising Awards Ceremony is on the horizon. So if you're dedicated to raising the profile of your Authority, there's no single more effective strategy than to take part in this prestigious annual event.

In 1992, the Ceremony will take place on 9th April at the stylish Plymouth Pavilions, and we're expecting a record number of entries. The Judging Panel will consist of independent representatives from Creative, Copywriting and Media, as well as Executive Committee Members from SOCPO. They will select 15 Category winners from which one overall winner will be chosen.

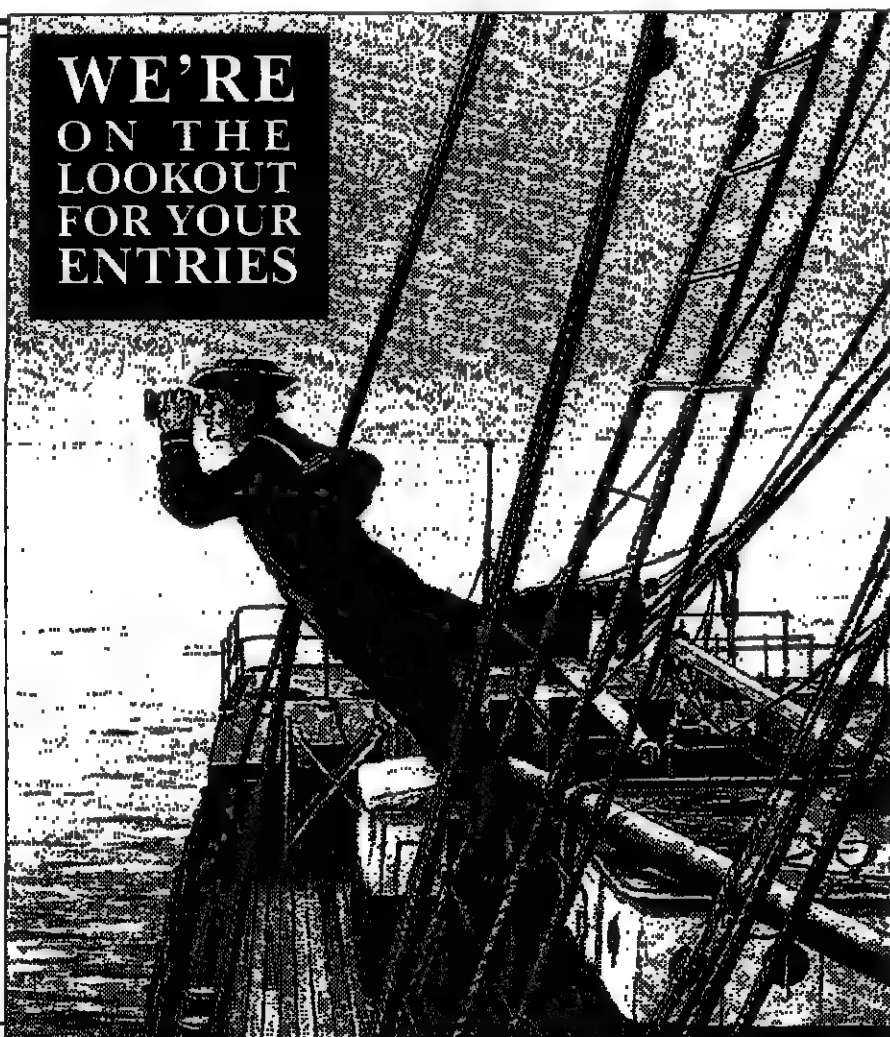
It's a major date on the advertising calendar, attracting sponsorship from a host of national newspapers and trade publications including *The Observer*, *The Daily Express*, *Opportunities*, *Building*, *The Guardian*, *Community Care*, *The Times Educational Supplement*, *Personnel Management*, *New Civil Engineer*, *Public Money*, *Local Government Chronicle*, *The Independent*, *The Sunday Times*, *Municipal Journal* and *The Daily Mirror*, together with certificates of merit courtesy of *Personnel Today*.

For an application form and full details of how to enter, please write to Angela Frederick, Austin Knight Ltd, Tricorn House, 51-53 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8TP, or telephone her on 021 456 1375.



RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING AWARDS 1992

WE'RE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR ENTRIES



ACCOUNTANT (EDUCATION CONTRACTS)

Up to £26,736 pa inc + lease car London SW17

Education is a priority within South West Thames RHA, one that annually affects 1,300 nursing, midwifery, scientific and paramedical staff and consumes approximately £35 million.

Actual training and education is carried out by six Nursing Colleges and a number of other NHS and Further/Higher Education providers. Your role within the recently established Education Contracting Unit in relation to them will be twofold. On the one hand you will be called upon to cost our portfolio of contracts, identifying and agreeing cost breakdowns. Then as the service is delivered, it will be your responsibility to monitor the financial performance of the Colleges.

A qualified Accountant with an honours degree, you should have the ability to work alongside and establish credibility with District and Unit Directors of Finance and business managers. You will also be required to maintain close links with the Regional Resources Directorate. An NHS background is not essential.

In addition to the competitive salary and lease car, we offer an excellent range of benefits including subsidised optical and dental care, child care vouchers and pension scheme.

For an application form and job specification please contact HQ Personnel, SWTHRA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Telephone: 071-262 8011 ext: 4026 (ansaphone 8am - 6pm). Please quote Ref: 91/121/T. Closing date: 24th January 1992.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities

SOUTH WEST THAMES Regional Health Authority

PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER (Post E3)

£16068-£18375 (SCP 31-36)

Bedfordshire County Council is looking for an applicant to fill a post within the Emergency Planning Division that has become available due to a retirement.

We are looking for a literate and numerate candidate preferably educated to degree level (or equivalent) in a science or technology based subject who has the ability to prepare plans to mitigate the effects of any natural, accidental or wartime emergency.

Good verbal and written skills are essential along with an ability to work with a minimum of supervision.

In view of the outcome of the Home Secretary's recent Review of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, the main emphasis within the Division is now on major post-war incident planning.

The successful candidate will be expected to take part in an emergency on-call roster which provides continuous cover. The post attracts an Essential Car User allowance and therefore a full valid driving licence is required. Bedfordshire County Council offers a generous relocation package with this post in approved cases.

If you feel that you can make a worthwhile contribution in this post, please write to, or telephone, the County Personnel Adviser, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP (Tel: (0234) 228 288) for an application form and full job description. Informal enquiries to Mr. A. Laverick, County Emergency Planning Officer - Tel: (0234) 228835.

We welcome particularly applications from women and ethnic minorities due to previous under representation (B38/RRA, S48/SDA). Closing date for applications: 27 January 1992. Interviews: 12 February 1992.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Secretary and Head of Legal Services

Up to £38,600

We require a manager of exceptional calibre to provide top-flight management and leadership as head of our Secretary and Legal Services Department which includes Tourism and Leisure.

You will be an experienced manager, though not necessarily in local government, and you will be expected to make a significant contribution to the corporate management of the Council.

You will be a good communicator and negotiator, particularly able to project confidence and establish credibility.

Whilst a legal qualification is preferred applications are invited from all suitably qualified and experienced persons.

Here is an opportunity to combine a major step in a successful career with a move to Malvern Hills, an area of great beauty.

The range of benefits include car, telephone and excellent relocation allowance.

For an informal discussion please telephone the Chief Executive, Martin Jones on (0684) 892700.

Application forms and further details are available from:

Carol Cole,
Personnel Officer,
Malvern Hills District Council,
Avenue Road,
Malvern,
Worcestershire WR14 3AF.
Tel (0684) 892700, ext. 2262.
Closing date: 22nd January 1992.



Malvern Hills District Council

CITIES IN SCHOOLS - FUNDRAISING

Cities in Schools, a registered charity, was established in the United Kingdom in 1989 to bring the experience and knowledge of its United States counterpart to assist young people who drop out of school for various reasons. The organisation aims to develop personal self-esteem by giving support in areas of difficulty whilst providing an educational environment in which the pupil is encouraged to achieve his or her full potential. The various area programmes depend upon the active involvement of the community as a whole, including parents, the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The expansion of CIS requires a BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. Reporting to the Executive Director the successful applicant will have two main tasks:

- to raise funds for CIS
- to support the fund raising efforts of local CIS programmes

and will ideally be able to demonstrate successful fund raising in the voluntary sector together with experience of marketing and promotion in the private sector.

Age is no bar but personal attributes include self motivation, belief in the objectives of CIS, and the ability to discuss confidently with community representatives and others all aspects of the CIS philosophy and programmes.

Based in the West End of London the successful applicant will receive a salary of c£25k p.a. plus usual benefits, including a car.

Applications in writing, please to:
The Executive Director
Cities in Schools (UK)
5 Cleveland Place
London SW1Y 6JJ

Closing date 24 January 1992
Committed to equality of opportunity.



Assistant Historic Buildings Representative

£13,608 per annum

Based at Chumber Park in Nottinghamshire, also covering the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire. This post is primarily concerned with the care, conservation and aesthetics of country houses, landscapes and gardens.

The person appointed will be responsible for the Historic Buildings Representative for:

- High standards in the presentation and care of the Trust's historic buildings and their contents

- Drawing up a conservation programme and ensuring the adoption of appropriate and cost effective techniques

- Supervising the re-decoration and rearrangement of historic buildings as necessary
- Advising on appropriate design in all aspects of the Trust's work

You must have a passionate interest in historic buildings and knowledge of the history of taste as represented in architecture, decoration, collecting and patronage, garden and landscape design.

Previous experience and an Art/History of Art degree or equivalent are essential and an interest in vernacular buildings is desirable.

You will be eligible to join the National Trust scheme (a clean driving licence is essential) and a contributory pension scheme. Relocation assistance may be available.

For further details and an application form please send a cv to Kerry Cobley, Personnel Officer, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1E 9AS.

Closing date for returns of applications: 20 January 1992

National Park Officer

The appointment of Michael Dower as Director General of the Countryside Commission leaves vacant the most challenging post in the management of Britain's National Parks.

Applications are invited for the job of National Park Officer with the Peak Park Joint Planning Board, which is the National Park Authority and unitary planning body for Britain's first National Park.

The post, leading a staff of 300 and overseeing a budget of £7 million, requires proven managerial ability and wide experience of countryside matters. It is not restricted to any one discipline, but the postholder is likely to possess a degree, or a professional or management qualification, together with at least ten years relevant experience.

Local government experience at a senior level and knowledge of the National Park system in England and Wales are desirable, but applicants who have gained relevant management experience in other fields will also be considered. The Peak Park Joint Planning Board is an equal opportunities employer.

Salary scale: £38,007 to £42,887 pa plus car allowance and relocation package.

Full details and application forms from Personnel Officer, National Park Office, Alden House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derby, DE4 1AE (0629 614321). The closing date for applications is 20 January 1992.



PEAK NATIONAL PARK

Ryde Again to put best foot forward

FEW horses have had a better pedigree for National Hunt racing than Ryde Again. A son of Celtic Cone, he is a full brother to the talented, but ill-fated Celtic Ryde and related to many other top horses such as Noddy's Ryde.

Since his early days in novice hurdles the chestnut has been thought of as a future star by many observers. But Ryde Again has so far proved somewhat of an enigma.

Now he will try to add substance to that promise in the first division of the Reynard Novices' Chase at Chepstow today.

The nine-year-old has already had one, less than successful, attempt at novice chasing. He only jumped one fence to public, he fell at the second.

At Chepstow two seasons ago, he has not won a race in almost two years.

However, last season he put up some good performances in defeat. He ran second to Floyd in two of the top staying races, the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot and the Rendisham Hurdle at Kempton.

He also acquitted himself well over two miles when beaten a head by Sybilin, with Royal Dera's three lengths away third, at Hereford.

He now has his first outing since moving to Jerry Pit-

man's yard, and if she has managed to coax some of the untapped chasing potential that Ryde Again has hinted at in his hurdling, then he should be good enough today.

The best of the opposition could be Martin Pipe's Cache Fleur, who is making his chasing debut, having won a hurdle at Kempton earlier this season. However, on the balance of form, this represents a major step in class.

The champion trainer should be on target, however, with Outside Edge in the Johnny Clay Memorial Handicap Chase. Outside Edge won only once last season but put up a fine perfor-

mance when third to Seagram in the Ritz Club Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. His main rival could be Over The Road, who was fourth to Seagram in the Grand National.

Outside Edge was 25 lengths behind Seagram when receiving 7lb, while Over The Road was 38 lengths back when in receipt of 6lb. The fact that Outside Edge has already had a run this season should not matter in his favour, and he is my nap.

Pipe can make it a double with Forest Flame in the Future Chasers Conditional Jockeys' Selling Handicap Hurdle. Although his first run this season was less than encouraging, Forest Flame looked like recapturing his best form when a close fifth at Warwick last week. A drop to selling company may get him back to winning ways.

Memorably, who has not run for almost a year, can start his season with a win in the Freedom Handicap Chase at Leicester. The seven-year-old has won on his seasonal debut for the last two seasons and looks weighted to do so again here.

Later, The Illywhacker may prove the better of Jenny Pitman's two runners in the Arlington Premier Series Chase Qualifier.

Maguire, her Ryde Again has untapped potential

Maguire to lose six winners

ADRIAN Maguire is in trouble with the Jockey Club over his claim, and racing's ruling body is objecting to his last six victories.

The season's outstanding conditional jockey, faces disqualification from 12 races, in which he gained six wins and six places, because officials believe he was no longer entitled to claim his 3lb allowance.

Those under threat include his three impressive winners at Sandown on Saturday.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee will consider the objection at an enquiry under the rule which deals with horses carrying

the incorrect weight. There seems little doubt that all the horses concerned will be disqualified.

A statement explained: "It is the responsibility of an individual claiming jockey to keep account of races won, but it appears that Adrian Maguire has incorrectly been claiming a 3lb allowance since he rode Norwick to victory in the Tortington Selling Handicap Hurdle at Fontwell on December 30, and therefore an objection has been lodged."

Maguire said: "As far as I was concerned I lost my claim when I won on Notary-Norwell at Sandown on Sat-

day, but there appears to have been a mix-up with the numbers. This is a big blow."

The Jockey Club started investigating Maguire's riding record - including his successes in Ireland where he was based until this season - because nobody could establish when the jockey officially lost his right to claim.

David Pipe, director of public affairs, said: "We do not know what we can, but it is not totally exhaustive. As long as riders are free to go anywhere in the world, we expect them to keep their figures up to date."

2.10 KEAT'S HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,350; 2m) (5)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
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2.40 COLERIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE

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3.10 SHELLEY MAIDEN HURDLE

(£1,250; 2m) (5)

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3.40 BROWNING HANDICAP HURDLE

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

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CHEPSTOW

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
1.20 Ryde Again	1.20 Sound of Jura	1.00 Vazon Bay
1.00 Parson's Thorne	1.00 VAZON BAY (nap)	
1.30 Vazon Bay	1.00 Outside Edge	
2.00 Outside Edge	2.30 Forest Flame	
2.30 Forest Flame	3.30 Coolcraun	
3.00 Frelife Finishing	3.30 Coolcraun	
3.30 Kingley		

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES)

12.30 REYNARD NOVICES CHASE (Div 1, £2,385; 2m 4f) (14 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
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101: MEETING ABANDONED - WATERLOGGED COURSE

FORM FOCUS

BLAKENESS 201 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991. He was 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991. He was 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991.

1.00 REYNARD NOVICES CHASE (Div 1, £2,385; 2m 4f) (13 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
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1.30 DEBUTANTES MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT HURDLE

(£1,225; 2m 4f) (18 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
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2.00 JOHNNY CLAY MEMORIAL CHASE (Handicap; £3,665; 3m 6f) (13 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 3. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 4. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 5. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES)

12.30 REYNARD NOVICES CHASE (Div 1, £2,385; 2m 4f) (14 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 3. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 4. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 5. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10

101: MEETING ABANDONED - WATERLOGGED COURSE

FORM FOCUS

BLAKENESS 201 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991. He was 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991. He was 2nd of 4 to Fair Over Stm in Ulster (2m 4f) in 1991.

1.00 REYNARD NOVICES CHASE (Div 1, £2,385; 2m 4f) (13 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
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FORM FOCUS

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1.30 DEBUTANTES MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT HURDLE

(£1,225; 2m 4f) (18 runners)

- 1. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 2. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 3. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 4. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10
- 5. 101/100 LEGAL TALK (5) (J. J. Jones) M. J. Jones 5-11-10

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BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

...the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement.

TUESDAY JANUARY 7 1992

Former England captain suffers a sad exit

Pay-cut dispute leads Butcher out of Coventry

By Chris Moore

TERRY BUTCHER, the England football captain at the World Cup finals in Italy in 1990, became the first managerial casualty of the new year yesterday when he was dismissed as manager of Coventry City.

Don Howe, the former England coach, who joined Coventry six weeks ago as assistant-manager, was put in charge of the struggling first division club until the end of the season.

Butcher's dismissal came less than 48 hours after Coventry had needed a late penalty to stay in the FA Cup against Cambridge United, the second division side, at Highfield Road. Coventry have taken only seven points from their last 11 League matches. It was as much Butcher's annual salary of £250,000 that contributed to his demise as the club's recent playing record. Butcher, aged 33, the former Ipswich Town defender, cost Coventry £400,000 when he joined them as player-manager from Rangers in November 1990, less than 24 hours after the club had dismissed John Sillett.

Injury restricted him to seven appearances last season before he underwent an operation in January on a knee joint. Butcher made a belated comeback on October 23 in a Zenith Data Systems Cup tie against Aston Villa only to be sent off for a professional foul. Three weeks later, exactly a year after his arrival, he announced his playing career was over because of the knee

TERRY BUTCHER

Born: December 28, 1958, Singapore.
Age: 33.
Career details: April 1978: Ipswich debut v. Everton. 271 first division appearances for Ipswich, scoring 18 goals. May 1980: England debut v. Australia. July 1986: joined Rangers for £750,000. 127 Scottish League appearances for Rangers, 9 goals. Nov 1990: moved to Coventry as player-manager for £400,000. 8 League appearances. Jan 1992: Dismissed by Coventry.
International honours: 77 England appearances, three goals. Played in the World Cup finals of 1982, 1986 and 1990, when he was captain, and the European championship finals of 1988.
Club honours: Ipswich: UEFA Cup winners: 1981. Rangers: Scottish League champions: 1988-7, 1989-9, 1990-1. Scot Cup winners: 1987-7, 1987-8, 1988-9.

injury. Peter Robins, who ousted John Poynton as chairman in a boardroom coup last month, confirmed yesterday that Butcher had refused to take a cut in salary. "We have been concerned about the whole basis on which he was taken on as a player-manager on a three-and-a-half-year contract at a very substantial salary and transfer fee," Robins said.

"After I became chairman I approached Terry to renegotiate his contract on a manager only basis. But he felt unable to accept any renewed deal or salary reduction. By his own admission his injury is permanent and he is now unable to contemplate playing first-team football ever again."

"In view of these factors the board unanimously agreed that as he was unable to continue as player-manager a change had to be made. We

still have 19 league games to play. Had we left it any later it could have been extremely difficult to reverse the trend."

"We have said on many occasions this is the most important season in our history. We are totally committed to bringing Premier League football to Highfield Road and we have made this decision to make sure we achieve that goal."

Butcher, who won 77 caps for England, said: "I do not want to discuss the matter. It is in the hands of my lawyers."

Soon after his arrival at Highfield Road, Butcher appointed Mick Mills, his friend and former Ipswich team-mate, as his assistant, and also brought in Brian Eastick as reserve-team coach.

But after the boardroom shuffle in November, Mills and Eastick were dismissed with Howe appointed as first-team coach. The signs were that Butcher had been forced into making the changes by orders from above, although he insisted publicly that it was his decision. He showed a profit in the transfer market, having bought seven players for a combined cost of £1.3 million and sold six for £1.9 million.

Although Howe has been asked to take over for the remainder of the season, there is speculation that Bobby Gould, the West Bromwich Albion manager, could head the list of long-term targets. Gould is a former Coventry player and also had a spell as manager at Highfield Road.



Butcher: the player-manager who was prevented from playing by a bad knee injury

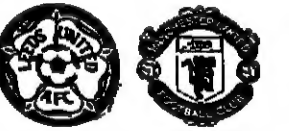
Robson could benefit from postponement

By Stuart Jones
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE torrential rain that flooded Elland Road on Sunday fell in favour of Manchester United. Bryan Robson, their captain, and Denis Irwin, both of whom would have missed the FA Cup third-round tie had it not been postponed, could be available for the rearranged fixture next Wednesday.

The presence of Robson, as long as he recovers fully from a calf injury, would be especially significant in view of the absence of David Batty. His suspension, a result of the caution issued during the League game against Manchester United on December 29, is to begin on Monday.

Leeds, are therefore, certain to be without the player who naturally fills the defensive role in central midfield and allows room for Gary McAllister's more creative abilities. Robson acts in the same position as Batty and, in turn, provides the freedom required by Neil Webb. Irwin, who could be fit enough to return for Manchester United's home game against Everton on Saturday, will resume at left



back. His understudy, Clayton Blackmore, was at fault for the first two goals during the woeful capitulation against Queen's Park Rangers at Old Trafford on New Year's day.

Yet the balance, which could also be affected by the outcome of the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final at Elland Road tomorrow night, remains tomorrow as fine as has usually been the case recently. Since Leeds returned to the first division, all four of their fixtures against Manchester United have been drawn.

Should that sequence be extended next week, the two leaders of the championship race will be left behind the rest of the field in the FA Cup. The replay at Old Trafford would not be staged until the weekend of January 25, the date reserved for the fourth round.

At least the latter is then certain to be resolved, by penalties if necessary, but the winners would not be able to visit Southampton until February 5. Should

that be inconclusive, too, it is conceivable that the replay would again be held when the other competitors are completing the next round.

The inflexibility of the domestic programme has been exacerbated still further by the police's insistence that ten days' notice must be given before a cup replay takes place. The possible complications can have damaging consequences, as Leeds well remember from last season when they were in contention for four trophies.

After losing their protracted FA Cup fourth-round tie against Arsenal, which involved four games spread over January and February, they fell away on all fronts. They were beaten in the semi-final of the Rumbelows Cup by Manchester United and in the northern area final of the Zenith Data Systems Cup by Everton. Unable to regain their impetus in the first division, they finished in fourth place and failed even to claim the compensation of qualifying for Europe.

Now they and Manchester United will be praying, above all, that the run of play is not again suspended by the weather.

BSkyB to show tie from Dell

THE FA Cup fourth-round tie between Southampton and either Manchester United or Leeds United has been put back two days from Saturday, January 25, to be shown live on BSkyB on Monday, January 27.

Southampton will not know their opponents until January 15, when the third-round tie — postponed on Sunday because of a waterlogged pitch — is played at Elland Road. The rescheduled Leeds-Manchester match, which will be shown live on BBC, has prompted three clubs to switch their own replay arrangements to next Tuesday. They are Derby, Newcastle and Wimbledon, while Tottenham Hotspur may join them today since BSkyB is negotiating to show their replay with Aston Villa on the same night.

The BBC's decision yesterday to make Chelsea's fourth-round tie with Everton its choice for live viewing on January 26, means that three successive Everton matches will be the subject of live television on Sundays. Their league games, at home to Nottingham Forest, and away to Villa, have both been put back a day, to January 19 and February 2 respectively to accommodate ITV.

Rumbelows Cup presents a last chance for Palace

By Our Sports Staff

MARK Bright, the Crystal Palace forward, yesterday admitted that the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final with Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park tomorrow could mark the turning point in Palace's season. Victory would preserve Palace's hopes of winning a trophy this season, but defeat, after Saturday's exit from the FA Cup against second division Leicester City, would effectively end them.

"This is our most important game of the season and that is no exaggeration," Bright said. "There's a saying in football that your next game is always the most important, but this one really is. If we lose, it is just a case of trying to climb as high as we can in the League. I really want to win something."

Bright added: "I think we have only beaten Forest once while I've been at Palace, but I have a good feeling about this game."

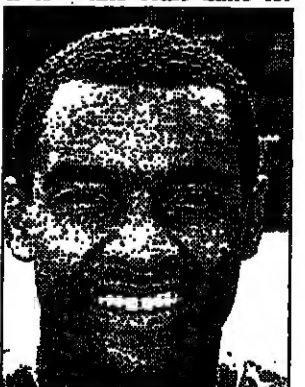
Meanwhile, Chris Turner, the manager of Peterborough United, whose side humbled Liverpool in the last round, believes his players face more demanding opposition this time in the form of Middlesbrough, the second division club.

"I honestly believe Middlesbrough will be harder to

beat because of the way they play," Turner said yesterday. "Liverpool was a one-off. They didn't perform well on the night."

The Middlesbrough winger, John Hendrie, will return after recovering from an ankle injury picked up in November, providing a welcome relief for the manager, Lennie Lawrence, who had been rueing the absences of Andy Peake and Andy Payton, who are both cup-tied, and Mark Proctor, who has an ankle injury.

Norwich City will be looking to make up for their 3-0 Christmas defeat by Tottenham Hotspur when they travel to White Hart Lane for



Bright: optimistic

their quarter-final. That defeat capped a miserable run of five games without victory for Norwich, but since then they have revived, beating Aston Villa in the first division and Barnsley in the FA Cup.

The Tottenham manager, Peter Shreeves, must decide whether to retain the team that drew with Aston Villa in the FA Cup on Sunday or recall Gordon Durie, Gudni Bergsson and Nayim, all fit again after injury.

The Watford vice-chairman, Geoff Smith, was yesterday given a place on the Football League management committee. Smith brings the second division representation on the eight-man board back to full strength following the recent death of the League's president, Bill Fox.

France will be without their goalkeeper, Bruno Martini, when they play England at Wembley next month. Martini, of Auxerre, is recovering from an ankle operation.

The Republic of Ireland and Wales will break new ground in a friendly match on February 19 when they play at the Royal Dublin Society Ground, the home of Shamrock Rovers. It is the first time the ground has staged an international.

Bowlers ready for end of exile

By David R. Jones

SOUTH Africa, winners of all four events when the world bowls championships were held at Johannesburg in 1976, will return to international competition in August, when the Woolwich world championships are held at Worthing.

The South African Bowling Association (SABA) has been advised by the National and Olympic Sports Congress of South Africa (NOSC) that the required validation for entry into the event has been granted, subject to the SABA becoming an affiliate member of the NOSC.

According to an announcement from the International Bowling Board (IBB) yesterday, the SABA board of control has unanimously agreed to the condition.

Winning the Leonard Trophy on home soil in 1976 was one of South Africa's last sporting triumphs before the Gleneagles agreement constrained the SABA to a diet of domestic competition.

The South African team at Worthing will therefore, in a sense, assume the role of defending champions.

In 1958, when South Africa made their last appearance in the Commonwealth Games, the singles gold medal was won by Pinkie Danilowitz, and competitors such as Doug Watson and Bill Moseley kept their country in the top echelons of the world bowls during the 1970s.

Although the IBB's announcement made no mention of the women's event, which will be held at Ayr in June, Eleanor Allen, the secretary of the Scottish Women's Bowling Association, said yesterday that she expected South Africa to participate.

□ Zurich: FIFA, football's world governing body, reaffirmed yesterday that South Africa cannot return to international football until July at the earliest, after the next FIFA congress. (Reuters)

Gibbs to stay with Swansea

SCOTT Gibbs, the Wales rugby union centre, made an eleventh-hour decision to reject a move to rugby league with Hull yesterday. Gibbs was on his way to sign for Hull, in a deal believed to be worth about £200,000, when he had a change of heart. The move is the second that Gibbs, aged 20, has turned down. Last summer, he spurned a £300,000 offer from Wigan.

Stephen Watson, the Hull chairman, said: "The deal was accepted by both Scott and his agent. Everything was going through smoothly, then I had a call saying he had changed his mind. To say I am disappointed is an understatement."

Gibbs, who is certain to be named on Thursday in the Wales team to meet Ireland in the opening five nations' championship match on January 18, switched from Neath to Swansea last week.

Immes joins Leeds, page 33

Advertising ploy stumps ICC

Richard Streeton examines a new branch of the sponsorship in cricket

AFTER all those commercial logos on bats, shirts, sweaters, perimeter fencing and even on the outfield, English cricket will have advertising on the stumps next summer.

Those jarred by the pictures of sponsored stumps in England's match in Hamilton last weekend must brace themselves for something similar next summer, although it was stressed at Lord's yesterday that any logo or wording used on the stumps will not be as blatant as in New Zealand. It will be clearly on view, however, for the first time in the Test matches and one-day internationals with Pakistan.

Whether this particular marketing ploy has a long-term future at the game's highest levels remains to be seen. When the International

Cricket Council (ICC), in July 1990, drew up its inaugural rules on advertising on players' clothing and equipment, it made no mention of stumps.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, the ICC secretary, decided after seeing the pictures from New Zealand yesterday to put the matter on the agenda for the ICC meeting in July.

He said: "We laid down permissible measurements and colours for logos and other advertising on shirts, helmets, pads, shoes, gloves — you name it — but over-

looked the possibility of stump advertising. Obviously, it is something we ought to discuss and I shall raise it next July," he said.

Stump advertising was one of the matters that the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) clarified with the ICC when it completed its new, three-year agreement for coverage of most of English cricket's main occasions. It is understood that the BBC expressed concern about over-sized logos but finally agreed to accept anything stipulated by TCCB regulations.

Terry Blake, the board's marketing manager, said: "It typified the mutual trust and respect between us that the BBC was willing to accept anything on advertising that was permitted by our own

rules. As long as we do things reasonably, the advertising on stumps will not become an issue between us."

"Any logo or advertisement will certainly be visible or there is no point in having it. It is unlikely, however, that any advertisement will be as prominent as people have seen in the pictures from New Zealand," Blake added.

Apart from Tests and one-day internationals, it is possible that the board will introduce stump advertising at one-day finals and other domestic fixtures as well. Much depends on the response from sponsors, stump manufacturers and commercial firms to its availability.

India frustrated, page 32
Russell's campaign, page 32

Scotland wants try to be worth five points

By Alan Lorimer

SCOTLAND is to support the proposal for a five-point try at the International Rugby Football Board's meeting in New Zealand in April, but it will vote against the call to reduce the value of a dropped goal from three points to two.

The Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) announced yesterday that it would back the suggestion for a change in the restarts after a score — a tap-kick instead of a place- or drop-kick. "We think it is unfair that the side which has just had a score against it should immediately give the ball to the opposition," Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, said yesterday.

Ray Megson, of Edinburgh, has been nominated by the SRU to referee the

England-Wales match at Twickenham on March 7. It will be the second successive year that Megson, aged 46, a solicitor, will have been in charge of the fixture.

Hogg also said that the SRU was concerned about overseas players keeping out home-grown players from league or representative games. "We are considering a possible resolution from clubs for the AGM to tighten up the regulations," he said.

Overseas players seem certain to face a qualifying period for league games.

Barnes back, page 32

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